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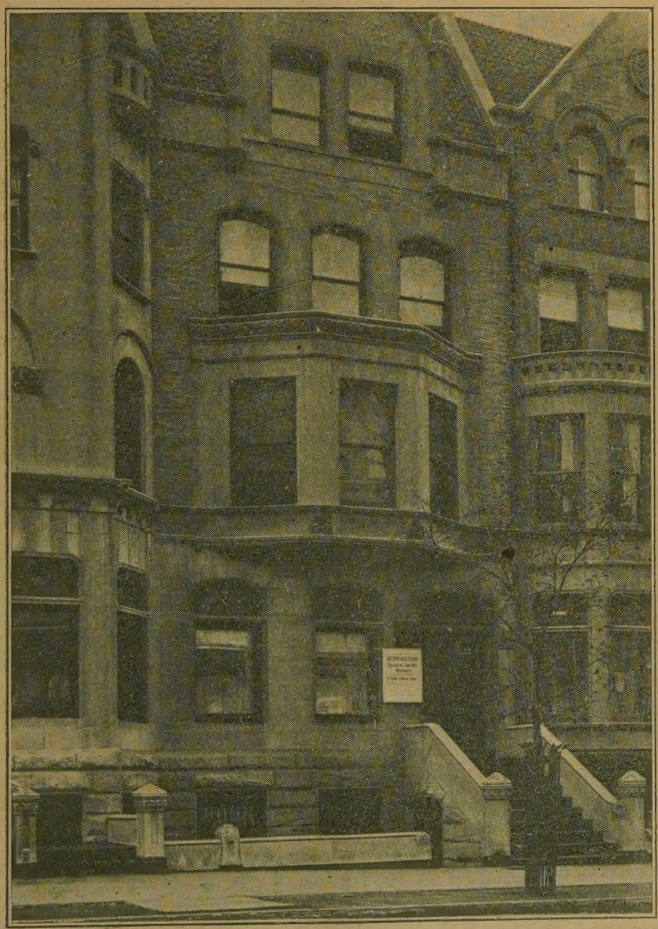
Of the Church · By the Church · For the Church

Luther League Review

The · Official · Organ · of the Luther · League · of America



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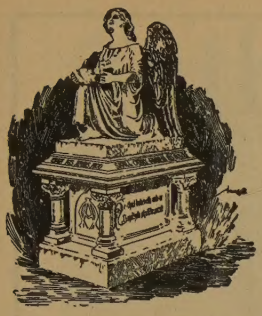

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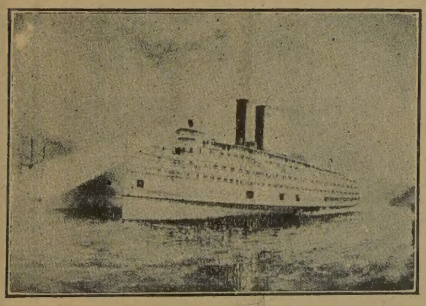

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Luther League Review

Luther League of America

Thirteenth Convention at Buffalo, N. Y., August 27-29

BY MRS. MINNIE L. BOEDECKER.

OUR "war-time" Convention is now recorded in the annals of the Luther League of America. The success of the Luther League during the past biennium is due to Him to whom all success must be attributed.

"Breathes there the man with soul so dead
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land!
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd
As home his footsteps he hath turn'd
From wandering on a foreign strand?"

INTERIOR OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, BUFFALO, WHERE SESSIONS OF CONVENTION WERE HELD

Very appropriately the theme of this Convention was: "Patriotism—Our Church, Our Country." If any one went home from this Convention without being thoroughly enthused for service for the Master, it was not the fault of either the essayists or speakers. Many times we thought of the patriotic lines of Scott in "Lay of the Last Minstrel":

The Convention was held in Holy Trinity Church, Rev. F. A. Kahler, D.D., pastor; Rev. Sheerer, associate pastor. The beauty and dignity of this house of worship added greatly to the religious spirit of the Convention.

Each evening session opened with Vesper Services conducted by prominent clergymen in attendance upon the Con-

vention. After the precessional hymn each evening the audience joined in singing a patriotic song. At the first session the patriotic song was "America the Beautiful." At the second evening session the audience sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Mr. C. T. A. Anderson, Chicago, President of the Luther League of America, in a clear voice and with well chosen words, stated that the 13th biennial convention of the Luther League of America was assembled in the greatest age of history to seriously consider matters of moment to the young people of the Lutheran Church. He spoke eloquently but for only a few moments, concluding with this sentiment:

"And grant, O Father! that the time
Of Earth's deliverance may be near
When every land and tongue and clime
The message of Thy Love shall hear."

Mr. A. W. Kreinheder, commissioner of public works of the City of Buffalo, as representative of His Honor, Mayor George S. Buck, in an address of welcome informed the delegates of the advantages of Buffalo and its marvelous attraction. Rev. F. A. Kahler, D.D., welcomed the Convention, saying:

We welcome the Luther League in its thirteenth biennial meeting in Holy Trinity Church with great gladness. We welcome this League as we remember its history. We remember the great work of organizing men and women started in the heart of those indefatigable pioneers in the Luther League work. It wasn't so much that they would be able to secure a large Luther League—one large organization—but it was their purpose, and it was a mighty strong purpose, strengthened with prayer and Lutheran resolution, that the young people of the Church of the Reformation should get together in the bonds of fellowship for united endeavor in building up the Church of the Reformation. I leave it to you whether they have succeeded.

You say there are many Leagues and many members, but this is true, that the great strength of our young people that for a long time lay dormant has been roused and the work of the Luther League is showing itself in Men's Bible Classes, and it is showing itself in finer church buildings, in larger endowments for educational purposes, and it has shown itself in the great merger, that merger that is coming about in answer to the prayers of our Christian Church and that has long been waited for.

We are glad to greet you here as the great pioneers of our organized young people's work, especially as you have made your theme that of "Patriotism," and the patriotism that is to count in this world is that which reaches beyond this world, the patriotism that makes our soldiers strong and our armies clean, that patriotism that was born in the open Bible, it is that patriotism that lasts when the other failed

We welcome you Luther Leaguers in your history of your endeavor. We welcome you in your achievements. We welcome you as the exponents of that larger patriotism that shall make the land more free, the soldiers more brave and the whole family of nations in God more true.

Dr. L. J. Knell, President of the Buffalo Federation of Bible Classes, spoke of the work of the Bible Classes and in their name welcomed the Convention to the Queen City of the Lakes. Mr. W. H. Meisner, President of the Buffalo district Luther League, heartily welcomed the Convention on behalf of the district league. After these addresses, delegates and visitors were quite sure that they were welcome to Buffalo and they were glad that this city had again been chosen as the place of meeting.

The Hon. E. F. Eilert, Chairman of the Executive Committee, was unable to be present and to respond to these addresses, but he sent the following letter, which was read to the Convention by Mr. Hodges, the General Secretary:

It is with keen regret and disappointment that I am forced to forego the privilege and pleasure of attending the convention at Buffalo.

The Government has called on me for twenty of my young men for the service, four from my office including my son and son-in-law—these four all members of my church, I trained from boyhood in our business, and now that they have gone I am, as you can well imagine, obliged to be here and handle matters myself.

The disappointment is greater not to have the particular privilege of meeting with you at Buffalo in the church that brings back so many pleasant memories. The very efficient and loyal pastor, Dr. Kahler, has been my friend for twenty-seven years. I first learned to know him when Mrs. Eilert and I took our first trip to Niagara Falls (a trip similar to that taken by many other couples) and his cordiality and hospitality on that happy occasion will linger in our hearts all our lives.

It was in old Holy Trinity Church that I presided in 1894 as President of the Luther League of New York State and subsequently as President of the Luther League of America in 1904, it was my pleasure to officiate at one of the largest and best conventions our League has held.

The people of Buffalo, our Lutheran people and pastors of Buffalo have a nation-wide reputation for the cordiality with which they receive and the magnificent entertainment and hospitality they offer to all visitors. Buffalo, to my mind, is an ideal place for a convention and I am grieved to realize that I cannot enjoy with you the cordial greetings of its people, our Lutheran people among whom I have so many friends.

The Luther League is particularly fortunate to meet in Buffalo this year, where so many identified with the early history of the League, men like Dr. Kahler, Dr. Flierl, Mr. Grauer, Mr. Henrich and Miss King (now Mrs. Lutz), and others whom I cannot recall by names, are about to see consummated the ideal which we all have hoped and prayed for these many years, the final uniting of our Lutheran Synods into one large and general body, the United Lutheran Church of America. For thirty years, ever since the first gathering of Lutheran young people in New York City, regardless of the synodical connection of the churches with which they were connected, gathered together and met in the various churches, seeing each other face to face and eye to eye, the hope has been in the minds of all to see some day Lutherans united and working together for the best interest of our Church in this country.

That happy occasion will occur this fall and many of us, I hope, will be privileged to gather and rejoice with our Lutheran hosts in the great event. While many of our young men and pastors of the Luther League, now faithfully serving their country, may not be there in person they will be there in spirit, and I know will utter a prayer of thanksgiving that the long looked for day is at last to be realized.

The Luther League as a body has not directly advocated or been responsible for the consummation of this much desired and happy occasion, still indirectly and through conventions like this they have sought to emphasize that Lutherans can come together and meet in common fellowship for the advance and betterment of our whole Church.

In these times when men and organizations are being tested as to their loyalty and much criticism, however justly or unjustly, is being made, we of the Lutheran Church are proud of the fact that over 200,000 of our boys are serving the country and many Lutheran pastors are serving as chaplains and camp pastors in the interest of our common cause to make this world better and safer for the generations to come. Lutherans need never be ashamed of their Church or its origin even though that is sometimes criticised in these days. Let it be emphasized whenever criticism is made that the Lutheran Church is

the largest Protestant denomination in the world, outnumbering all other Protestant denominations, and that the sun does not shine over any country where the Lutheran Church cannot be found.

I am happy at heart for all these great things, for the Lutheran Church which I have been able to serve, and for the country that is doing so many great things these days. But with all I am deeply disappointed that it will not be my privilege to join with you at this time to convey my greetings in person and to rejoice with you for all the great things that God hath wrought.

May His blessing and guidance be with you all.

The Convention Sermon was preached by Rev. Elmer F. Krauss, D.D., President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Maywood, Ill., after the audience had risen and sung "My Country 'Tis of Thee." Dr. Krauss read the portions of Article XXVIII of "The Augsburg Confession" on which the theme of the Convention was based. The Convention Sermon was on "The Church's Power and the Nation's Needs." It is impossible to publish this remarkable sermon in its entirety nor to give adequate expression of the scholarly diction and earnestness of utterance that characterized his delivery. It was a sermon needed to be heard to be appreciated, and any attempt at reproduction without the full written manuscript would do it injustice.

A telegram of greeting from the Connecticut State Luther League was read, as was also a telegram from Mr. M. Haller Frey, of York, Pa. Mr. W. C. Stoever, President of the Luther League of America from 1900 to 1914, sent the Convention this greeting:

My heartiest good wishes to the Luther League of America now in convention at Buffalo. May the delegates have the greatest blessing and feel how much good they have accomplished toward the merger of the United Lutheran Church, for, by their quiet efforts, men have come to see the light; and, whilst credit is not given as it should, yet we all know that the Luther League of America has had a quiet influence in bringing about this greatly desired and prayed for event.

I am sorry I cannot attend, but it is not for the benefit of my health that I should go from home now. I will be with you in spirit, however, if not in body.

After the closing devotional services, a reception was tendered the delegates and visitors in the church parlors.

Second Session

The second session of the Convention opened with devotional services. Rev. Moritz G. L. Rietz, Lockport, N. Y., was the Convention chaplain. Both morning sessions were opened by using the Morning Suffrages. Prayer was offered for the President and Government of the United States at each session of the Convention. After President Anderson had declared the Convention opened for business, he read his biennial address and report.

With feelings of great responsibility we assemble in Buffalo, where in 1904 the Sixth Biennial Convention of the Luther League of America was held. The greetings and hospitality of Buffalo is characteristic of Lutheran liberality and heartiness. Whatever success has been achieved in the years since first we met in this convention city must be attributed to the rich heritage bequeathed us and the clear vision enjoyed by the consecrated laymen who founded this movement; and whose stalwart Lutheran standards and simple declaration of principles admirably schooled us for these testing times in which we live.

The future with its grave responsibilities appears bright, when strong, capable and active young men and women are assembled with one great purpose in the interest of God's Kingdom.

The Luther League of America has always recognized its proper relations to the Church. Those who have had its executive management have ever been careful in the development of the spiritual life of the young men and women of the Church and in increasing their efficiency and effective Christian service to keep the movement in closest relationship to the Church itself.

At this time it is proper that I should present to you a statement of my official acts as President of the Luther League of America.

Where God rules you cannot stop progress.

It is now twenty-three years since the League was organized in the First Lutheran Church at Pittsburgh. The organizers of this movement little thought that this society of young people would grow and do the marvelous work it has accomplished during this quarter of a century. Many young men and women are now in the service of the Church who had their first training in Christian service in the Luther League.

Having been a member of the Luther League since its organization, it has been an education to me and from the official positions held by me I know personally the great benefit the League has been as a training school to the young people of the Church, teaching them and training them to "Pray and Work."

During the past two years as your President, I have addressed three State conventions and twenty-two local societies.

Greetings were sent to all League conventions known to me.

February 9, 1917, I sent letters to the State officers urging them to raise the full amount of the Jubilee Fund.

A special appeal to assist our Treasurer, Mr. P. Walter Banker, in raising sufficient funds to pay off all indebtedness was sent July 24, 1918, to the State presidents.

In February, 1917, as your President, I was invited to address the Lutheran Student Missionary Conference of America at Maywood, Illinois, and it was gratifying to hear the kind references made there to the Luther League.

On May 10, 1917, a letter of greeting to all Luther Leaguers in India was sent to Mr. Ravuri Augustus Rentachintela, Guntur, India.

February 1, 1918, a special appeal was made to the Luther League to assist in raising the funds for the National Lutheran Commission for Soldiers' and Sailors' Welfare.

The Executive Committee approved the work of the Program Committee, and the theme adopted for this convention is "Patriotism: Our Church—Our Country."

Mr. Hodges, our General Secretary, has done most efficient work and he deserves the hearty thanks of the Luther League. He has done his work during the past year without any salary.

Last year Mr. Hodges was offered the position of circulation manager for *The Lutheran Church Work and Observer*. After consulting with the Executive Committee, and in view of the financial condition of the League he accepted this position, but upon the distinct condition that he should be permitted to continue his work as General Secretary of the Luther League of America until our convention. It was also understood that the League was simply to provide for the necessary expenses for its own work, but without the payment of the secretary's salary.

Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, our Literature Secretary, has improved the REVIEW and the *Topics*. I know personally how faithfully he has done the work. He also has attended a number of State and District Conventions and spoken on various occasions in behalf of the League.

During the past two years more Literature Certificates have been issued than during any other term in the history of the Luther League. A total of twenty-four certificates were issued, signed by the Literature Secretary and the President.

Since our last convention in Toledo, the Common Service Book prepared by authority of the three general bodies, General Synod, General Council and United Synod of the South, has been published. The

Luther League Rally Hymn is included in the collection of Hymns. To comply with the requirements of the Common Service Committee the chorus of the hymn has been modified, as the chorus as originally written was not acceptable to the standards established by the Joint Committee.

The Luther League has been a fruitful agency in inducing young men to enter the gospel ministry and young women to enter the calling of the deaconess. No feature of League work is more far reaching and gratifying than this. The influence of the League in stimulating our young people to enlist in these two ministries of the Church is deserving of recognition. When we are in the midst of a crisis of a world war this influence of the Luther League as an auxiliary of the Church is exceedingly gratifying to those in touch with the work of the League.

Lord Horatio Nelson, on the eve of the battle with the Spanish fleet, off the Cape of Trafalgar, called two high officers to him in his cabin. These men within the fleet had always been at odds and enemies. He pointed through the window toward the enemy, saying, "Men, yonder is the enemy, tomorrow we meet in deadly battle. In the name and for the sake of old England, get together." The hosts of Satan, the enemy, are marshaled. Can we say, in the name and for the sake of Christ, get together for the bloody battle of the morrow? We can; we must!

The proposed union of the General Synod, General Council and the United Synod of the South is a movement with which the Luther League is in entire sympathy. For a quarter of a century men of all Synods and different nationalities have met with an expression of common faith and practical co-operation on the programs of the Luther League in National, State and District Conventions; and the Luther League rightfully claims a share in bringing to pass this merger of the great English forces of our Church. The spirit of harmony which found expression in bringing together these three general Lutheran Synods is that for which Christ prayed in His intercessory prayer and Luther Leaguers in their conventions have been accustomed to hear again and yet again these words of Paul to the Galatians, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Truly we can say

"Lord, her watch the Church is keeping."

The Lutheran Church is loyal to creed and flag and the Church will do its whole duty in the present crisis as it has in the past wars of our country. The Luther League is doing its share to meet the emergency that is confronting the nation. Thousands of Luther Leaguers are now serving under the flag in the Army and Navy and are at the front with the colors.

The Lutheran Church has risen to its duty and with the Church of which we are a part the League will do its duty with earnestness and loyalty.

It is a pleasure to note that a great number of Leagues have given service flags to their respective churches. The gift of these service flags is an evidence of the loyal spirit of the League.

Dear little flag in the window there.
Hung with a tear and a woman's prayer;
Child of Old Glory, born with a star—
Oh, what a wonderful flag you are!

Blue is your star in its field of white,
Dipped in the red that was born of fight;
Born of the blood that our forebears shed
To raise your mothers, the Flag, o'erhead.

And now you've come, in this frenzied day,
To speak from a window—to speak and say:
"I am the voice of a soldier-son,
Gone to be gone till the victory's won.

"I am the flag of The Service, sir;
The flag of his mother—I speak for her
Who stands by my window and waits and fears,
But hides from the others her unwept tears.

"I am the flag of the wives who wait
For the safe return of a martial mate,
A mate gone forth where the war god thrives
To save from sacrifice other men's wives.

"I am the flag of the sweetheart true;
The often unthought of—the sisters, too.
I am the flag of a mother's son
And won't come down till the victory's won."

Dear little flag in the window there,
Hung with a tear and a woman's prayer;
Child of Old Glory, born with a star—
Oh, what a wonderful flag you are!

—*William Hershell.*

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. *Finances.* That the delegates of this convention direct the attention of their respective Leagues to the urgent necessity of the prompt payment of the per capita apportionment by Local, District and State Leagues to enable the Luther League of America to meet its obligations. The treasurers of Local, District and State Leagues should be instructed to remit all moneys sent to them for the Luther League of America promptly when received. A special appeal for the payment of the balances that may be due from any organization to the Jubilee Fund should be sent by District and State Treasurers to delinquents urging the immediate payment of this fund to enable the Luther League of America to cancel its present indebtedness.

2. *Recognition of National Officers.* That State and District Sercretaries should be directed to promptly notify the General Officers of the Luther League of America of any changes made in the personnel of their officers. State Secretaries should also be instructed promptly to furnish their latest statistics in each year to the National Officers, upon whom frequent call is made for this information. In arranging for State and District conventions, the Officers of State and District Leagues should consult with and co-ordinate the date for these conventions, so as to admit of the National Officers attending these conventions with the least amount of expense and regard for time. The thanks of the League should be given our Secretaries, Treasurer, and National Committees for their services on behalf of this important work of the Church.

3. *Loyalty.* That the Committee on Papers and Resolutions prepare a resolution expressing our loyalty to and co-operation with the President of the United States and our support of the Government in the high and earnest purpose "to make the world safe for democracy."

4. *Literature.* That, in loyal support of the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, the official organ of the Luther League of America, the Leaguers be urged to send in League news promptly to the Editor and to give preference in League news to the official organ of the Luther League of America. We have learned with pleasure of the granting of diplomas to a large number of Luther Leaguers who have completed the reading courses, and Local, District and State Officers should be urged to do all in their power to encourage larger numbers of our Leaguers to read the courses and apply for diplomas. A suitable resolution of appreciation of the reading of the Quadricentennial reading courses by so large a number of our members should be prepared and presented to the convention by the committee on papers and resolutions.

In closing my term of office I wish to thank the officers and committees who have so ably assisted me for their faithful services, hearty and undivided support in making my administration of the affairs of the Luther League of America prosperous and successful.

The President then called for the reports of General Secretary, Treasurer, Finance Committee, Executive Committee, and Junior and Intermediate Committee. Mr. Henry Hodges read his first biennial report as General Secretary:

Since assuming the duties of the office, our beloved country, from the highest and loftiest of motives has seen fit to enter the great world conflict to make the world safe for democracy. The Lutheran Church being the most democratic of all churches and the only church having a statement of loyalty in her confessions, unalterably committing her to uphold the government under whose flag she lives, immediately allied herself with the federal authorities to uphold the hands of the President.

One hundred and ninety thousand of her sons did she give to various branches of the service, a greater percentage than any Protestant body; a percentage which, if equaled by others, would have placed an army of seven million men in the field.

The first to have a commission for soldiers' and sailors' welfare, she immediately prepared to care for and make fit in every sense of the word, these her sons, even though they be out upon the battle line. Being a polyglot church she has rendered inestimable service to the Government by ministering spiritually to the interned aliens.

Just how many of the 190,000 boys are members of the Luther League I am unable to say, but the

draft age and the dearth of men at conventions which I have attended lead me to believe that there are many. My first recommendation is that we instruct our Resolutions Committee to submit at the proper time a resolution affirming our belief in the righteousness of our country's cause and pledging ourselves and all that is ours to its consummation.

The United Lutheran Church of America.

We are assured that within a few weeks the United Lutheran Church, for which we all have worked and prayed, will become a fact. As the Luther League of America has played such a large part in making this merger possible, said organization should naturally be made the official Young People's Organization of said United Church.

It was my intention to recommend to this convention that it petition the United Church to this end, but as it was rumored that the Ways and Means Committee of said United Church would hold its last session prior to this convention, I sent a letter to the sub-Committee on Non-Parallel Organizations, signed by the President, the General Secretary and the chairman of the Executive Committee.

I would recommend:

A. That this convention endorse said letter.

B. That it empower the Executive Committee to make any and all readjustments which may become necessary.

C. That in order to have informed and intelligent representatives to treat with the authorities of the United Church, that this convention instruct its Nominating Committee to submit a ticket re-electing the present corps of officers and Executive Committee.

D. That in order to enter the United Lutheran Church with a clean slate, we instruct our Treasurer to borrow sufficient money to pay our indebtedness and also instruct the Executive Committee to add same to the per capita apportionment for the coming biennium.

The Rally Hymn.

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Luther League Rally Hymn, written by Mrs. Lillian Weaver Cassaday of sainted memory, the music by Rev. George C. F. Haas.

The hymn appears in the new Common Service and Hymnal with a new refrain written by Mrs. Margaret R. Seebach to meet the requirement of the standard of hymnology adopted by the committee.

That our Rally Hymn is now a part of the hymnology of the Church is cause for congratulation.

The Jubilee Fund.

The failure to collect this fund is a matter of great disappointment to your General Secretary.

With what unanimous enthusiasm it was launched at Toledo! When the 285 delegates who voted for it were called upon to start it with a contribution, 33 responded, 20 from Pennsylvania, to the amount of $56.25.

With what literature the Church was flooded! Your Treasurer and General Secretary closeted themselves for three days. Every Toledo delegate, every Luther League pastor, every State President and Treasurer received a letter. Plans were suggested for the gathering of the fund and literature offered in any quantity desired. The number responding was infinitesimal.

That the money could have been secured is proved by the recent successful drive in behalf of our soldiers and sailors.

Where the weakness? Lack of co-operation. Lack of co-operation in the State and district organizations.

We asked for $7,500 and have received but $3,734.30. We have failed, miserably failed.

Literature.

Lack of literature is our supreme weakness. Daily I am in receipt of requests for handbooks, tracts and and pamphlets on various phases of League work which I am powerless to supply because we do not have the money to produce them.

We cannot continue at the present rate. This convention must take some definite action providing for the immediate production of necessary literature.

Topics.

Our *Topics* have ever been adopted by the conventions for the biennium in advance. The entrance of America into the war during the past year caused our *Topics* to be out of keeping with the times, but we were powless to change them. I recommend that the matter of topics be referred to the Executive Committee with power.

Headquarters.

Shortly after assuming the duties of his office, your Secretary was enabled to secure a small office in a suite with the Home Mission Board of the General Council in the Drexel Building, Philadelphia, Pa., for $75 per year. This gives the Luther League of America a headquarters at a very nominal price.

The General Secretary.

During the past year your General Secretary has been fulfilling the duties of his office along the lines of least resistance.

The former General Secretary relinquished the office with the Luther League of America in his debt $2,000; the present incumbent assumed the office with the League in his debt $500. The Jubilee Fund was intended to eliminate this indebtedness, but as has been before stated, it did not materialize.

When it became apparent that the League could or would not support two salaried officers, your General Secretary sought for a means to relieve the League of his salary. The opportunity was afforded by the Lutheran Publication Society, who offered him the position of circulation manager of *Lutheran Church Work and Observer*. With the consent of the Executive Committee arrangements were made with the Lutheran Publication Society whereby he might retain his office of General Secretary of the League and continue to render such service as did not interfere with his duties as circulation manager. He accordingly relieved the League of his salary and has been serving gratis, the League paying his expense account only.

This is a poor arrangement, however, for in order to bring the League to a state of adequate sufficiency he should devote his entire time to the work, have adequate office facilities, stenographer and expense account. Our failure to collect the Jubilee Fund shows this. The present arrangement will doubtless terminate with the Merger.

At any other time I would offer a recommendation, but in view of our application for recognition in the United Lutheran Church, where readjustments will doubtless be necessary, I feel that it would be unwise at this time.

Junior and Intermediate Work.

These are departments of our work which are receiving too little attention.

A circus man was once asked how he trained his horses so well. His reply was: "I do not train horses; I train colts."

Training the juniors and intermediates will fit them for service as seniors.

We must have literature on these subjects and this convention should take some action in the matter.

Visits, Speeches and Travels.

During the biennium the General Secretary has attended 23 State conventions, 25 district conventions, 2 junior conventions, 6 rallies, 37 local organizations, conducted 26 conferences, lectured at 4 summer schools, attended 91 miscellaneous meetings and delivered 263 addresses. His findings have all been reported to the Executive Committee.

Statistics.

The Statistical Report is appended in full and will appear in the REVIEW, hence we read at this time totals only:

Twenty-one units (State and district organizations): 808 local senior organizations, 31,765 members; 2 local intermediate organizations, 50 members; 157 local junior organizations, 5,895 members; total, 967 local organizations, 37,710 members.

Contributed for local purposes, $25,160.53; for benevolent purposes, $8,764.77; total contributions, $33.925.30.

2.717 REVIEWS subscribed for; 7,861 *Topics* subscribed for.

While statistics are seldom if ever accurate, the following is gleaned from a comparison with those submitted at the Toledo convention: 1 State League gained; 2 district Leagues gained; 9,509 members; $1,901.32 more contributed.

Communications.

Two communications were received from the Pennsylvania League and are submitted for your action.

Necrology.

During the past biennium the Grim Reaper has entered our midst and two great men have fallen in Israel—Rev. C. Armand Miller, D. D., of Philadelphia, Pa., whom we will always hold in grateful remembrance for his very devotional treatment of our Lenten Topics for several years, and Rev. W. K. Frick, D. D., of Milwaukee, Wis., popularly known as the Bishop of Wisconsin, who was one of the founders of the Luther League of America and one of its staunch supporters throughout his life. One by one our leaders are passing to their reward and the Luther League of America must train up others to take their places.

DELEGATES TO THE THIRTEENTH CONVENT

Co-operation.

Because of the increased railroad rates, travel is extremely costly and in order to keep the expense account as low as possible, I recommend that this convention request the Presidents of all State Leagues who desire the presence of the General Secretary at their conventions, consult with him when arranging dates for said conventions, that in as far as possible he may visit several on one trip.

There has recently been organized in New York City a Lutheran Bureau having for its object the giving to the public matters concerning the Lutheran Church and gathering from all sources data of interest to the Church and acting in the capacity of a clearing house on all things Lutheran. Membership is by individuals and organizations at $5 and $10 per annum, respectively. I recommend that the Executive Committee be instructed to apply for membership in behalf of the Luther League of America.

The Luther League is steadily gaining in its hold both upon the pastors and people as the young people's society in the Lutheran Church. Its splendid showings indicate that the Luther League of America is fulfilling its mission, fostering the spirit of loyalty and stimulating greater activity in the Church. The growth and increased efficiency of the Luther League and its advance in the work of the Church has contributed in no small degree to the general welfare of the Church and has paved the way for the United Lutheran Church of America which stands at the door.

Mr. Hodges, in the absence of Mr. Eilert, Chairman of the Executive Committee, read the report of the Executive Committee:

Your Executive Committee has met several times during the past biennium and transacted the business of the League ad interim and provided for the holding of this convention.

Arrangements were made whereby the General Secretary could give part of his time to the Lutheran Publication Society, thus relieving the Luther League of America of his salary. This action should be approved by this convention.

The State League of Michigan, the District League of Wheeling and Vicinity, the local League of Victoria, Texas, were received into membership with the Luther League of America. This action should be ratified.

Mr. P. Walter Banker, as Treasurer, presented the following report:

While the objects which we originally set out to accomplish have not altogether been attained, we have, nevertheless, been blessed with a very much larger return than ever before in the contributions of the Leaguers to the League's cause.

Not only have the Leaguers contributed in a greater measure than ever before, but the interest shown by all those who have been interested in the collection of both the Jubilee Fund and the dues, has been such as to leave no doubt in the mind of your treasurer that our Leaguers are interested more than ever in the success of the League. When we first tried the per capita system, there was considerable opposition on the part of our people because they believed that the money asked for was in excess of the amount actually needed. Also because of the fact that they have never been asked enough, they felt that they were being asked too much; now the opposite seems to be true.

In addition to the payment of the per capita that has been asked, for several years they have contributed the larger portion of the Jubilee Fund. The Jubilee Fund has practically only been paid to the extent of about 65 per cent., but with one or two exceptions practically every League in the United States has contributed at least one-half the amount asked for. The honor of having paid more than was asked for, and being the only one of all the States that has both its Jubilee Fund and dues paid, goes to Indiana. Indiana is deserving of a special credit because of the fact that while they were quite deeply in debt to the National, they have gone ahead, liquidated the debt, and paid their present dues, a record that they may well feel proud of because of the fact that it is an honor that no one else has enjoyed. The next on the roll of honor will be the Luther League of the District of Columbia, which had its dues paid up for 1918 before any other League, so that all in all it would seem that the per capita system is the best so far devised for the raising of the money necessary for the League work.

In our supplementary report we are offering a recommendation that the per capita be increased from $.06 to $.10 because it is practically impossible at $.06 to meet the expenses of the organization. In view of the fact that several years ago we asked $.10 per capita for the General Secretary Fund, in addition to dues, I see no reason why we should not feel free to raise the per capita at this time; in fact

HE LUTHER LEAGUE OF AMERICA

there remains no choice in the matter; we *must* have funds or else we cannot exist.

There has been considerable opposition to the charging of a per capita for the Junior League, but the time is now ripe for the beginning of a system of per capita for them. In our supplementary report we are offering a recommendaiton that the per capita for the Junior League be placed at $.05 per member. This would provide the Junior and Intermediate Committee with additional funds with which to extend the scope of their work. There is no doubt in the minds of any of us but that the future of the Senior organization lies in the ability of the Junior League to accomplish something in the way of preparation for the Senior League.

Your treasurer is not altogether satisfied with the results because of a lack of opportuntiy to give the close attention which we believe is necessary, because of a year or more of bad health, as the office entails considerable work. During the past biennium 30,000 circulars were sent out, 4,500 letters of various kinds, and in addition over 1,200 communications of various kinds were sent together with a number of receipts. The League has paid in the neighborhood of $4,400 more this year than in any year of its existence, and $5,600 more than was collected during any biennium prior to the one preceding the Toledo convention. This certainly confirms what we stated earlier in our report, that the Leaguers show a willingness to contribute as never before.

In addition to all this, practically every League in the country has caught up with its back dues and is paying on present year dues with the exception of one or two with whom we expect to have conference at the convention looking to a method of settlement. Pennsylvania has in part made good strides toward the accomplishment of this very thing, prior to this convention being in debt for several preceding years, but this year finds them paid well into 1918, and from the statement made at the conference of their retiring treasurer and the new one, the prospects are that before the end of the year the dues will be paid up.

Your treasurer would also take this opportunity to extend his personal thanks to those officers and members of the League who have so kindly given all of their time in assisting him in his work. The courteous letters from a number of our pastors and officers of State Leagues have made some of the brightest spots in our Church experience. In organizations where there was considerable opposition, many of our pastors and officers have voluntarily taken upon themselves to lend every assistance possible in doing the work, and it is to them that the results attained are what they are. Several of our pastors have taken it upon themselves to personally see that their organization paid, and to lend every possible assistance in the work.

The following is the statement of receipts and disbursements:

Receipts.

Dues	$3,329.47	
Hand Book Fund	33.30	
Jubilee Fund	3,734.33	
Toledo Convention Offering	142.21	
Junior League Fund	120.50	
Special Fund Organizations (account Balt. Convention Pledges)	105.00	
Special Fund Individuals (account Balt. Convention Pledges)	429.28	
Contributions by Rev. Kuhns (account Traveling Expenses)	394.29	
Contributions Pacific Coast Leagues	45.55	
Contributions So. Dakota Leagues.	15.00	
		$8,348.93
Balance Aug. 7, '16		60.75
		$8,409.68

Expenses.

Toledo Convention Expenses	$154.50	
Harry Hodges, Gen. Sec'y and Expenses	3,560.32	
Rev. L. M. Kuhns, Expenses	4,023.30	
Junior Book Committee Expenses.	46.50	
Jubilee Fund Expenses	95.92	
Stationery and Printing	150.57	
Executive Committee Expenses	171.45	
Traveling Expenses, Officers	104.40	
Typewriting	34.50	
Postage, Telegrams, etc.	47.52	
		8,388.98

Balance Aug. 20, 1918		$20.70
Dues Unpaid	$1,555.44	
Jubilee Fund Unpaid	3,608.44	
		$5,163.88
Bills Unpaid:		
Rev. L. M. Kuhns	$ 950.00	
Mess Bills	35.00	
		$985.00

The year just past has proven, without question of doubt, that the League as such is ready for a new forward movement, and that the opportunities for

The report of the Finance Committee was read by Mr. Banker and is as follows:

	Dues Paid.	Jubilee Fund.	Individual Amount.	Organization Amount.	Totals.	Dues Unpaid.	Jubilee Fund Unpaid
Baltimore Dis. League	$54.00	$45.25	....	....	$95.25	....	$29.75
Central California League	2.50	10.00	....	....	12.50	$17.00	15.00
Canada	118.80	....	$20.00	$25.00	163.80	....	182.50
Dist. of Columbia League	42.40	32.50	....	20.00	94.90	....	17.50
Connecticut	60.06	92.25	....	....	152.31	....	31.75
Illinois	376.88	233.27	....	....	610.15	....	163.23
Indiana	140.36	163.52	5 00	....	308 88	....	*50.00
Iowa	27.00	32.50	....	....	59.50	....	93.75
Kansas	64.74	66.00	....	....	130.74	....	55.50
Nebraska	55.68	21.50	....	....	77.18	....	72.25
New Jersey	24.00	54.25	....	....	78.25	49.98	45.75
New York	403.00	569.16	165.00	35.00	1,172.16	745.77	832.59
Ohio	302.34	433.96	....	....	736.30	....	173.04
Oregon-Washington	12.00	3.00	....	....	15.00	41.58	117.25
Pennsylvania	1,447.05	1,704.72	232.28	25.00	3,409.05	619.05	1,640.03
South Dakota	122.70	68.05	....	....	190.75	....	69.45
Wisconsin	62.64	67.90	7.00	....	137.54	....	18.85
Victoria (Texas) Local	6.12	....	....	....	6.12	....	....
Western North Carolina	7.20	22.75	....	....	29.95	....	....
Michigan	....	18.50	....	....	18.50	14.28	11.25
Minnesota	95.25	....	....	....	95.25	84.78	9.00
Wheeling, W. Va.	15.00	....	....	....	15.00	....	....

* Overpaid.

such forward movement are such as to demand the attention of all of the officers of the League. Our organization has accomplished considerable during the past for our Church, as is admitted by those who have not been associated with it in its work, but who have been its friends, and who today are willing to agree that the League has been the most beneficial factor in carrying out the statement that it has brought about the United Church. With these sentiments facing us and with the willingness that the Leagues exhibit to move forward to greater and better things, the League itself must adjust itself to new conditions and meet them in a new way.

During the past biennium the amount of the Jubilee Fund raised had to be used for the purpose of paying the salaries and expenses of the two secretaries even in the face of the fact that the League raised more money by means of the dues than ever before. This was due to the fact that our secretaries were paid their expenses and salaries and more has been paid on our back salary account to both of them. Mr. Hodges has been paid up until the first of August, 1918. Mr. Kuhns has been paid all of his expenses and salary for the past biennium and sufficient has been paid on what was owing him at Toledo to leave a balance of about $950. In view of these facts, the Finance Committee was not able to collect sufficient for the publication of the Hand Book, hoping that sufficient would come in from the means of the Jubilee Fund to not only tide us over for the added expense and our debt, but also to care for this very necessary publication. There is no question that the book is needed and there is no reason why our people would not be willing, in some manner, to raise the funds necessary. I am quite sure that if all the Leagues were appealed to as organizations they would be willing to contribute $1 apiece toward the publication of the Hand Book, providing, of course, that they were furnished with a copy when it came out. We would suggest that the Finance Committee be authorized to raise the fund in this manner.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee at Pittsburgh, in October, 1916, the Junior Work Committee was asked to solicit $.10 per member from their Junior Leagues with the idea of having the Junior League present the Hand Book to the Senior organization. The Junior Work Committee has not undertaken it, believing that the time was not opportune, so that the matter of raising funds comes back to the Senior organization for solution.

The thanks of the organization are due to Mr. Hodges for his services during the past biennium, he serving with salary up until September, 1917; since that time he has served the organization in the capacity of its General Secretary without salary, simply asking that his expenses be paid, which was done. Mr. Kuhns also has contributed toward his own expenses by paying such of his railroad and other expenses as were needed in making trips that were made in addition to his regular work as originally outlined.

At the convention at Toledo your chairman offered a resolution which made possible the Jubilee Fund, having two objects in mind, the first and paramount to raise funds to care for the deficit facing the organization and to provide funds for its future; the second one being to endeavor to learn just whether our people would contribute to a fund of this kind and to what extent they would be willing to contribute. With the facts as they have been brought out and the answer that we have received from these facts during the past biennium, we believe that if we present to our people the plan of a more coordinated organization, and the promise of a still better service, we will be able to raise the per capita and to make possible the carrying out of the recommendation that we submit herewith: First, that the per capita for the next biennium, beginning with the calendar year 1919 and 1920, to be at the rate of $.10 per Senior member for the Senior organization; second, that the Luther League of America ask the Junior Leagues in its organization to contribute $.05 per Junior member toward its expenses and that the Finance Committee and Treasurer be authorized to collect the per capita upon this basis.

Altogether we believe the biennium just past is the best in our history, and the new biennium presenting the opportunity of making it a still greater one if our Leaguers will meet the opportunities which present themselves.

Rev. A. T. Michler, Chairman of the Junior and Intermediate Committee of the Luther League of America, presented the following report:

Your committee has formally met twice during the biennium and planned the topics and general work of the committee. In addition to this several members informally discussed the work in October, 1917.

During the year 1916-1917 the Junior Topics were planned on the following basis: A group of devotional, practical, Scriptural and historical topics. One Topic on the Reformation was prepared for each month, while the first topic in the month was devoted to the missionary phase of the Church.

During the year 1917-1918 a series of general Junior Topics were prepared which included a wide range of Biblical and Church topics. During the biennium, the Intermediate Topics were prefaced by using the Senior Topic subjects and treating them in a simplified manner. This method seemed to be quite successful.

In addition to this your chairman has also provided the Junior Topics for *Lutheran Boys and Girls*. The members of the committee and the various writers who have assisted in the preparation of the Topics, were most loyal and faithful, and are thanked for their splendid assistance.

During the biennium some funds were raised by the committee. It amounted to about $120, most of

which is in the hands of the National Treasurer. What expenditures were made were for the needs of the committee in the conduct of its work.

During the past year the Chairman of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the General Council suggested the joint employment of Miss Brenda Melhouse, of Morristown, Pa., to do Junior extension work. After the unanimous consent of the committee, Miss Melhouse was employed jointly for three months, during which an itinerary was planned. It was agreed that the influence of such extension work was to be that of encouraging the formation of Junior Luther Leagues, in which missionary information and life can be planted as well as in a separate Junior Society. This has been done with good results. The itinerary covered Philadelphia, Buffalo, Utica, Pittsburgh, and many intermediate points. It also largely paid for itself, although at this writing our committee owes $35 to the missionary society as our part of her salary.

It was found impracticable to secure funds for the publication of the Hand Book, a matter which your committee greatly desired to do to celebrate the Quadricentennial of the Reformation.

The Topics are still being published in the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, together with various articles bearing on the work which are published from time to time. This method will continue until such a time when subscriptions to Topics in booklet form will be sufficient in number to warrant their printing.

Your committee should continue to encourage the formation of Boys' Luther Leagues and Girls' Luther Leagues ranging in age from eleven to sixteen years of age, to provide a program for those who want to introduce a sound type of work with their young people of these ages. This period should be especially stressed for the good both of the Church and the League.

Your committee could accomplish more if funds were available for its work. Especially ought we to have more literature. It is to be hoped that more can be accomplished during the next biennium in both the Junior and Intermediate Departments.

Your committee would recommend the continuance of the monthly missionary Topics for the Juniors and the use of the Senior subjects as Topics for the Intermediates.

Mr. Anderson, as President, appointed the following committees: Convention Committee, Mr. F. C. Leupold, chairman; Miss Florence Stern, Miss Barbara Wiegand, Miss Sophie McMullen, Mr. Ed Hersig. Resolutions Committee, Rev. M. J. Bisber, D. D., chairman, Canada; G. Z. Zecker, New York City; W. M. Mearig, Pennsylvania; Miss Alma Becker, Ohio; Mrs. R. C. Hadley, Indiana; Rev. E. C. Beckman, Canada; W. P. Steinhauser, New Jersey; Miss Dorothy Wassman, Washington, D. C.; J. C. Sigmon, North Carolina. Auditing Committee, John Metzger, chairman, West Virginia; L. A. Wilke, New York; Roy C. Beaber, Pennsylvania. Nominating Committee, William Eck, chairman, New York; W. H. Menges, Pennsylvania; H. C. Hinckfoth, Ohio; Miss Louise Ellig, Indiana; Miss Eleanora Stange, Illinois; Rev. W. H. Knauff, Canada; Miss Carolina Nolde, New Jersey; Mr. H. Caemmerer, Washington, D. C.; Rev. W. C. Hanning, Michigan.

After announcements and the singing of "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty," the chaplain lead in prayer and pronounced the benediction, and the Convention adjourned to meet in sectional conferences. The conference on Principles and Methods was to have been conducted by Mr. I. Searles Runyon, of New York. As Mr. Runyon was unavoidably detained by imperative business engagements, the General Secretary, Mr. Hodges, conducted this conference. In opening the Pastors' Conference. the leader, Rev. L. C. Manges, D.D., of Harrisburg, said:

It does not seem to me necessary for any one to address Lutheran pastors on the subject of the Pastor's Responsibility and Care of the Young. It is a subject that is so central in all our Lutheran teaching and training, so drummed into us from our early childhood; it is one of the things for which we have argued and worked and fought and come into contact with revivalists, and for which we have been hammered over our heads; and it seems to me that it ought not to be necessary to say anything further about the responsibility of the Lutheran pastor for the training of the young.

But there is one thing that I want to call attention to, and that is this: The standpoint from which we should approach our problem. I have found it in my own life and the lives of other pastors, and among others who have labored close to me, that it is possible to have two different attitudes toward work.

I have discovered that it is possible for a pastor to look upon his Young People's Society as a thing which thrusts upon him an added burden. He is faithful, loyal, and works with his young people, but he is constantly feeling that he is doing the thing simply because it is a duty, and must do it if he wants to succeed and wants to hold his pulpit and get his salary and maintain his position in conference and synod. I have pastors complain that these societies are unnecessary burdens, and that it is a question whether the amount of work and time required are commensurate with the results obtained. There is that attitude or standpoint of looking at the Young People's work as a duty, a burden, an unnecessary task, but one of the things that belongs to Church life at the present time, and that the pastor must do to get along.

Another attitude is that of a pastor who has gone into his ministry not so much for the purpose of getting a fine pulpit, a big salary, the applause of men, but one who has gone into the ministry to please his Lord and with the desire to do what he can so far as God gives him to see it, and do what he can to build up the Kingdom of God. One taking this attitude will look upon the Young people's Society as a blessing.

It may not be the best kind of an opportunity. He may feel that it is not the place for him; he may have his own difficulties and problems, and feel the burden, but all the time he feels that there is at least some opportunity there, and he goes at it and with a different spirit because he expects some blessed result. There is a different feeling in a man's heart who goes out at night with a seine to catch fish so that he may have some the next morning for his family and the man who goes out to catch a big trout which he has been trying to get for five years and failed. There is a difference in the spirit in which one works in the Kingdom. The first thing a pastor must have is the proper attitude—to look upon his work as an opportunity. We may try and try again and not succeed so very well, but there is something gained to have tried, and this is essential to success.

Rev. Dr. Bicber said:

We are in a crisis. There are some Leagues that are declining, and they blame the Lord. Instead of this war being a hindrance, it is an opportunity. We are able to round out the slackers in the Luther League. Our Leagues have always had members who have not attended and who would not serve. Today the watchword, the slogan, is *service*. The nation wants all her men to know it, and we want the members of our Church and of the Luther League to know it. We have boys at the front and in the camp. The Luther League ought to make itself responsible as individuals. The local League ought to be divided in such a way that each member of the Church in the Service receives a letter each week. The Luther League should interest itself in raising a Service Flag for its Church. The Leagues, each one of them, should see that their dues and the Jubilee Fund is fully "paid up." No member will object to paying ten cents a year, or twenty-five cents for the Jubilee Fund, but they must be told in the right way, and led to feel, which is true, that each one is a vital part of our great Lutheran Church.

In the Conference on Principles and Methods, Mr. Hodges used this outline:

Don't overorganize—too many organizations kill the work. Concentrate efforts.

Why organize for efficiency? For sake of work—need efficiency. No society is better than officers—need efficient officers.

Why organize young people? First, for sake of young people—they need work. Second, for sake of work.

What are requisites of work? A knowledge of work—a zeal for work.

Some of the requisites of work: (1) Intelligent leaders—how get them? By letting them lead! Seek out leaders—all have talents—some naturally gravitate to surface, others must be sought; every one can do something. (2) Methods that win—have efficient methods in running and conducting society. (3) Have right kind of tools—tools are good meetings, members, prepared *Topics*—REVIEW.

What can members do? How inchease and maintain interest? By having definite object and work.

Why send delegates to conventions? To get increased knowledge and inspiration.

Why have conventions? For knowledge—inspiration—increased efforts.

Train successors—how? Educate members—train them to know Church.

Mr. Menges said:

The Luther League stands for principles of the Lutheran Church. Is of the Church, by the Church, for the Church. Has a specific work—carrying out Lutheran ideals. Is made up of young people representing principles and hence is typical church society.

How should chronic absentees be treated? Mr. Rohde said:

Need physician to diagnose case. Send Luther Leaguers to investigate each case—see why members are absent—why chronic absentees are absent—go again—two or three go together. When symptoms and conditions are known which cause absence, then prescribe proper remedy to get them back.

DISCUSSION.

Don't strike members from list when dues are in arrears for number of months. Try to reinstate absentees. Don't lose members by casting them from membership. Treat chronic absentees like tree doctor does trees, not by cutting off branches, but by applying remedy to save tree and branches.

Tell people their duty. In Protestant Church our failing is that we are afraid to tell people their responsibility to Church.

What is the best way to raise the per capita apportionment in the League? Mr. Banker said:

The secret of raising money successfully is information. Every one must believe money is needed. Those trying to raise it must believe this. Every one must know for what purpose money is to be used. Information leads to interest. Interest will lead all to give.

Third Session

The third business session was opened by the chaplain in the use of the Evening Suffrages. Each afternoon session was opened in the same way, and each business session was closed with prayer and benediction.

At this session Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, the Literature Secretary, read the following complete and interesting report on literature and publication:

In presenting this report it is gratifying to find much for encouragement. The following items are submitted.

Reading Courses:

The Toledo Convention in 1916 authorized the Literature Committee to arrange a special Reading Course for the Quadricentennial. Acting under this authority, the Literature Committee arranged the Quadricentennial Reading Course. The Junior Reformation Celebration Reading Course was also arranged. The books formerly in the various reading courses were placed in a Supplemental Reading Course.

The two regular Reading Courses for the last biennium secured a wider reading than any previous courses. Fourteen certificates have been issued to readers of the Junior Course. Ten certificates have been issued to readers of the Senior Course. Twenty-four certificates in all have been granted, and one reader was given a certificate in both courses.

This is the largest number of certificates that has been issued in the entire history of the Luther League.

The Luther League of New York State has the honor of having the largest number of readers.

The Senior Reading Course for the next biennium will consist of five books, as follows:

"What the World Owes Luther," by Remensnyder.
"The Way of Salvation" (Revised), by Gerberding.
"Praying and Working," by Stevenson.
"The Lutheran Manual" (Revised), by Remensnyder.
"The Friar of Wittenberg," by Davis.

The Junior Reading Course remains unchanged.

The Literature Committee, in formulating the reading courses, has avoided books that were too technical in their treatment, and has insisted that the books in the reading courses have literary merit and inspiration within themselves, and come within the scope of the League.

The Literature Committee primarily has aimed to secure a personal reading of the books.

Group reading of the books in the reading courses, which increases in value by discussion, has merit, and frequently much can be accomplished by encouraging group reading where personal reading of the books cannot be secured. Personal reading of each chapter, and discussion of the chapter in the group after reading, is probably the best system.

However, group reading will be permitted; and personal, or group reading, of the prescribed courses will be accepted for the granting of certificates, provided there is proper certification to and regular attendance upon group reading.

This, it is thought, will increase interest in the reading courses.

Rally Hymn:

At the Toledo Convention in 1916, the following was adopted:

"We recommend the approval of the action of the Executive Committee, requesting the Committee on the Common Service Book to publish the Luther League Rally Hymn."

The Luther League Rally Hymn has been incorporated in the "Common Service Book" authorized by the General Synod, the General Council, and the United Synod in the South, but after a revision of the chorus, which was not acceptable to the Joint Committee, because of not conforming with the standards they had adopted for the new hymnal.

As originally written, the chorus was:

"All hail, our Royal Colors,
For Kingly lives unfold,
Beneath our Luther Ensign,
Black, red, white, blue and gold."

The authoress of the hymn, Mrs. Cassaday, being dead, at the suggestion of a member of the Joint Committee, Mrs. Margaret R. Seebach was invited to revise the chorus to meet the standards approved by the Joint Committee on the "Common Service Book."

Prior to this, and without authority, the chorus of the Luther League Rally Hymn had been modified in the "Book of Worship" of the General Synod to read:

"All hail, our glorious Saviour,
Our lives for Thee make bold,
Beneath our Luther ensign,
Black, red, white, blue and gold."

The chorus as revised by Mrs. Seebach in the "Common Service Book" reads:

"All hail, our glorious Saviour!
We march where Thou hast trod,
To seek Thy House of Triumph,
The City of our God."

This change, on recommendation of the Literature Committee, was approved by the Executive Committee of the Luther League of America.

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Luther League Review and Topics:

By the action of the Toledo Convention, the Literature Secretary became the Editor of the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW and of the *Luther League Topics*.

Both of these publications have been edited, and the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW has appeared regularly each month, and the *Topics* regularly each quarter.

Twenty-five numbers of the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW and eight numbers of the Quarterly have been published.

Owing to the cost of paper and production it was necessary to increase the price of the REVIEW from fifty cents to sixty cents per annum. The price of the Topic leaflet has been increased from fifteen cents to twenty cents per single copy per annum, for the same reason. This barely covers the increased cost of paper.

An effort was made to secure the writing of prize stories by Luther Leaguers for the REVIEW. The time allotted for this proved too short to secure results. Another effort will be made.

The Intermediate Topics treatment has been added to the REVIEW.

To insure prompt publication the Topics for both the REVIEW and the Topics leaflet were prepared in advance, and the manuscript for the Topics for the entire year was placed in the hands of the publisher before the close of the first quarter in each year of the biennium.

Topics:

The Church Year has been followed, and there has been observance of the festival seasons.

During the biennium complaint has been received from several sources that the Topics were too simple. Nevertheless, it is the judgment of the Literature Committee that the simplicity of the Topics should be retained to meet general requirements.

In accordance with suggestions, a reduction has been made in the number of Missionary topics. A number of State Luther League Conventions approved this judgment when it was submitted.

Church History topics have been added in order that our Luther Leaguers might obtain knowledge that would cast a sidelight upon Biblical subjects.

Biblical, practical and biographical topics have been given a more prominent place.

The plan is to make the development of the Topics more suggestive than exhaustive, and to use either the Topics leaflet or the REVIEW for short suggestions or thoughts very simply expressed, rather than composing these thoughts into a theological essay.

During the past biennium a number of laymen have prepared treatment of various topics in an acceptable manner. It is the purpose of the Literature Secretary to encourage this co-operation on the part of laymen in the preparation of Luther League Topics.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations are offered for your consideration and approval:

1. Resolved, that the Literature Committee, should it be expedient for any reason to revise the Reading Courses, be authorized to make such changes as will promote the reading habit by our League members.

2. Resolved, that the thanks of the Luther League of America be tendered the various writers who have so kindly provided treatments of the Topics for the study of our Luther Leaguers, in preparing for the devotional meetings of the Luther League.

3. Resolved, that the schedule of Topics submitted for use by the Luther Leagues be approved.

Rev. Kuhns also read the report of the Publication Committee, in the absence of Mr. Eilert. This is the report:

I can send you no definite report concerning the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, as I have not had time to get this up for you, much as it was desired. However, I can give you figures approximately, as follows:

The LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW owes the Eilert Printing Company up to August 1, 1918..	$2,788.53
To C. C. Darling & Co.....	340.96
And other small bills amounting to about..	100.00
Total.....	$3,229.49

The assets are about $500. The business of the REVIEW has materially decreased owing to war conditions and to the additional cost of production; also to our inability to get advertisements to supplement what little we get from subscriptions.

I have been carrying this indebtedness for many years hoping that the League would give greater support to its publications, and further for my personal interest in the matter. The time has come when something must be done in order to have the League share this burden with me. I trust this convention will take some action toward a plan for cleaning up its indebtedness.

Mr. Hodges, the General Secretary, read letters inviting the Luther League to hold its next biennial convention in Milwaukee and also in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Rev. Hadley made an eloquent plea for the selection of Ft. Wayne as the Convention City. He read letters from the Mayor of Ft. Wayne and also from the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. O. C. C. Fetta, President of the Indiana State Luther League, made an earnest plea for the selection of Ft. Wayne. Except the letter from the President of the Wisconsin State Luther League and the letter from the Secretary of the Milwaukee Association of Commerce, that city had no personal champion on the floor of the Convention. After considerable discussion and various motions, it was unanimously decided to accept the invitation from Ft. Wayne.

Rev. Kuhns, in the absence of Mr. E. Aug. Miller, chairman of the committee, presented the report of the special committee appointed at the Toledo Convention to consider the advisability of preparing and recommending an amendment to the Constitution providing for the admission of Synodical Luther League. The action is as follows:

The committee has given careful thought and consideration to the matter referred to it, and as a result of such deliberation has no amendment to offer, and on the contrary would deprecate any amendment to the constitution which would commit the Luther League in any way as recognizing synodical lines. The tradition and history of the Luther League movement from its inception has discouraged synodical distinctions, and at this late date, after an existence of many years upon this basis, to make any change would, in our judgment, be most unwise and unfortunate.

This judgment of your committee, based upon the tradition, history and purpose of the Luther League, becomes immeasurably strengthened in view of the contemplated merger and organization of the United Lutheran Church, and we believe that the mover of the resolution which called this committee into being would not urge the adoption of any amendment in view of present conditions. At least so far as those synods are concerned which will become members of the United Lutheran Church of America the distinction between them will be mere matters of locality and history, and to perpetuate that distinction in the Luther League we think unnecessary and unwise. With union in the air 'twould be a most unfortunate and contradictory thing for the Luther League, which has always stood for a united Lutheran Church, to recognize supposed Lutheran differences as expressed by synodical organizations.

After the Convention had sung "The Church's One Foundation," Rev. Dr. J. Elmer Bittle, of Pittsburgh, read the following paper on "The New Task of the Christian Congregation."

The Lutheran Church has always been a pioneer in the service of her loving Master. She has been accused of being slow and lagging behind others, but her history tells a different story. She was the first to protest against the errors of Rome and to establish again the true religion of Christ. She was first to send missionaries to the multitudes in heathen India. She was the first to provide the Gospel for those who had entered the new world of the Western Hemisphere. She has had a glorious history as first in the true work for her Master, the Christ. And in this crisis which this bloody world war has brought upon the Christian Church, we believe she

will be first to present a satisfactory solution for the task placed upon us.

The world had lost the conception of Christ and His religion. She had accepted other gods in place of Jehovah. She had discarded the teachings of the Nazarene and substituted the wisdom of great human minds. She had given first place to a provincial patriotism and it created selfish interest, jealousy which ripened into distrust and fear and culminated in hate for other nations. Here the task of the Christian Church is to instill into the nations of the earth the conception of true religion, that love for man because of love for God, is the prime motive in the life of a nation. And that nation only is blessed whose God is the Lord and who faithfully serves Him.

Nations of the earth will be influenced effectively only by what a nation practices, and not by what she professes. Oratory may sway a multitude for a time, but practice of the precept is a lasting and therefore an effective means of changing the life of a people. Force of arms may conquer a nation physically, but unless the spirit is changed the nation is only temporarily subdued. The world may be taught the religion of the Christ, but if our nation is to bring the Christ to the world she must be practising the religion of the Christ, and our immediate task is to influence our own nation and help make her true in thought and action to the principles of the blessed Christ.

To do that effectually we must know our country, her people, her government, her motive and her life. We must have a vision of what she is before we can have a knowledge of our opportunity and a sense of our duty as well as an impress of our privilege and responsibility. This analysis cannot be made in this paper. We can only speak of the things which the congregation can and must do to make herself effectual in dealing with this problem.

My first proposition is that the pulpit must be more pronouncedly Christian and less provincial. The second proposition, that our task is to make more effective the evangelizing force in America.

Our new task is to organize our force into a true Christian democracy with leaders of broad vision and charity for others. We have not had an effective organization. The Church has apparently been living under the impression that a loose organization is most effective in carrying on the Lord's work. We would not advocate an episcopacy, but when a democracy has selected its leaders there must be a willingness to follow their lead or else replace them. Our leaders for the most part have been opportunists and have not had the courage or ambition to blaze a path in constructive work for the Church to follow. It will mean criticism, condemnation, impugning motives, and sometimes questioning of loyalty, but those are the things our great Leader was compelled to endure, and the leaders in our Church will be asked to bear the same if progress in the work is to be made. It will require men of brain power, executive ability, initiative, and above all, loyal, deeply spiritual men, who love the progress of the Kingdom more than the praise of men to so organize the force of our Christian congregations.

Our new task is to exalt the Christ in and through Christian service rather than through confession of Him. Faith and works. The past age has been a testing of the doctrines of our holy religion. Men have been battling to show that the tenets of our faith were vulnerable. But they have failed and their works have crumbled and fallen against the solid rock of our God and the Christ. About all that is left today that is worth while is the religion of Jesus Christ.

We will not need to be so strenuously contending for the faith once delivered to the saints," but we will need to be contending to prove by practical use of our religion that our God is the Lord. It will be the use that is made of the religion which we have that will count among men. In America today your profession of loyalty to the Government is not accepted. The question made is, What are you doing to manifest your loyalty to your country? In the trenches it is not what do you profess, but what are you doing to help win the battle and alleviate the sufferings of humanity. And the judgment of the Church in this and future generations is not what do you profess only, but what are you doing to relieve the sufferings of humanity and to save souls from eternal death.

C. T. A. ANDERSON, PRESIDENT

HARRY HODGES, GENERAL SECRETARY

OFFICERS OF THE LUTHE

The address of the afternoon was on "The State, a Moral Responsible Agent," by Rev. A. S. Hardy, New York City. This address was one of the strongest of the Convention. He said in substance:

Whatever may have been the contributing causes of this war, and they are many and diverse, the pre-eminent issue today has come to be that of moral rectitude in the conduct of national and international affairs, against unmoral imperialism. This war is the final conflict between democracy and expiring feudalism.

Autocratic government rules by force; it compels its will upon the people by virtue of military strength, and proceeds by that same might to compel the sub-

ection of other peoples. It has always been the con-ention of autocracy that the one who has the power ay win and take, and so increasing its power may in and take more. Out of this theory has arisen he claim that the State is independent of the moral aw. It cannot be immoral because it is a moral. t owes allegiance to no one but itself. It is free lways to consider solely its own interests and enforce s own will. "Military necessity" is the only apology t need make for any act it may elect. Even the ob-igations of honor, truth and religion may be ruth-essly swept aside when they interfere with the aims f the State.

This principle admitted, and the Kaiser and his ssociates are justified in turning Germany into a ast military organization, justified in violating trea-ies, justified in taking their armies through Belgium, and once in, like a robber in a house, for the sake of elf-preservation, beating into submission all who offer esistance, justified in denationalizing Poland, justi-ied in making war upon non-combatants, women, hildren and agencies of mercy; justified in many ieeds which the world has labeled "atrocities."

But against this principle, the outworking of which as been made terribly apparent, there has arisen a remendous voice of protest, in a cry that has rever-berated throughout the world. A new humanity has

P. WALTER BANKER, TREASURER
GUE OF AMERICA

been born, a humanity of brotherhood which is demanding that world-righteousness shall obtain among all nations in their relations with one another.

We are proud that the keynote of this new doctrine has been sounded by our own American nation.

It was an eloquent address and very appropriate to the theme of the Convention. Both this address and the very practical paper by Dr. Bittle were very stimulating to the leaders fortunate enough to hear them. At the conclusion of the paper the Convention sang "Saviour Breathe an Evening Blessing." Immediately following the adjournment the League workers' conference was conducted by Mr. W. H. Menges, President of the Pennsylvania State Luther League. Mr. Menges said:

Before we can be prepared for anything in life we must have a knowledge of what we are going to prepare for. In other words, we must have a knowledge of the task we are to undertake, and therefore the first preparation for the Luther Leaguer is a knowledge of what he is about to undertake, to know what his League is for. After he has got that, there is required—love for the work. There is not a Church which amounts to anything where the members do not have a love for the work. If any one is in this work for glory or self honor, he will be disappointed, because it was not intended for that. It was love for the work that caused our Saviour to come to this world to teach people and lead them to a better life, and we must have the same spirit or we will be disappointed. These are the two main things I want to emphasize—Knowledge of the Task, Love for the Work.

In answer to the question, The Reason for the Young People's Society, Mr. Hess said:

There are three primary reasons for the existence of a Young People's Society; and especially with reference to the Luther League: (a) Educational; (b) Social; (c) Spiritual. I will discuss each one briefly. I think without question that the League has opportunity to secure a close knowledge of the Church's history, of the lives of the members of the League, better than any other organization in the Church. It keeps the past history of the Church and membership in accord with present events, and

LUTHER M. KUHNS, LITERATURE SECRETARY

thus is readily able to understand why things are as they are. Thus the Leaguer is given the opportunity to make a study of his own Church and how the Church at large is serving in the Kingdom. (b) It has done wonders socially. This convention tells that. We come not only for the educational side and for the knowledge we can get, but to get better acquainted with each other and to strengthen the bonds of friendship. Sometimes we imagine when at work in our own little Church in a community that we have little to live and work for; but attend convention and you find that every one will be interested in the welfare of your little Church if you will let them know about it. Every single Church is a vital part of our great Lutheran Church. Thus it amounts to something to be a member of some obscure Church, for the right person, an active Leaguer can better conditions there. As young people we can go back home from this convention enlightened by what we have heard and seen, and apply necessary things to our own local Church. We can make a weak League strong. (c) The Spiritual side. Without the spiritual life a League is dead; without it we may have a fine time socially, but we lack the element which imparts inspiration and ennobles the soul. These three reasons, then, I would set forth as the primary reasons for the existence of a League in our Church.

This conference, as all the conferences, was opened with hymn and prayer and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Fourth Session

Mr. William Benbow, musical director of the Convention, opened this session with an organ prelude, "Festival Prelude," by Parker. The church was filled with a waiting and expectant audience. After singing the hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God," Rev. Prof. Abdel Ross Wentz, Ph.D., of the Theological Seminary of Gettysburg, delivered a masterful and scholarly address on "Lutheranism in American Liberty." This address, like that of Dr. Krauss on the previous evening, was delivered without manuscript, and we regret we are unable to give our readers even an outline of what Dr. Wentz said. However, it was analytical and constructive, incisive, practical and instructive—a truly eloquent address. Miss Gretchen Schaefer rendered the solo "My Redeemer and My Lord," by Buck, in an acceptable manner.

Fifth Session

After the devotional service, the business of this session of the Convention was opened with a splendid paper by Mrs. W. C. Hanning, of Detroit, who laid particular stress on the following points:

I am going to answer the question, "How can the League best help the Church," by asking another one: "How can an army best serve its country?"

We are going to study the two kinds of soldiers this morning—we grant that a man may be a soldier in civil service as well as a Christian soldier, but we grant that there are many men in our civil service who are not soldiers of Christ. Never in the history of the Christian world has talk amounted to so little, as now. We can, as citizens, sit on our chairs from morning until night and read the various papers and study them, and still we would not be patriotic just because we knew the work of warfare and the transactions thereof. A real patriot is the person who enters into something and sacrifices something.

Every soldier after he has learned to be loyal to the Church, he is personally responsible for the failure or success of the Church. Let us try to be active in everything that we do. I have no use for anybody that is a drone in the Church of Jesus Christ. Do you know that when a soldier is sleeping on duty, that he is shot? If we shot all the Luther Leaguers who fell asleep at their duty, we wouldn't have a good half dozen left.

Every Leaguer should study the literature of his Church, in order to know the history of the Church of which he is a member. Why, a soldier wouldn't dare to go forth to war without being trained! How many of your young people can give you a good biographical sketch of Martin Luther? I dare say very few. Let us put our literature before our people, and let us appoint in our Churches and our Luther Leagues some one who will be responsible for constantly putting before our members the literature of the Lutheran Church. A good soldier must be able to strike at a strategic moment. A Luther Leaguer must be able to think and also strike at a strategic moment in Luther League work.

Now, as we send our soldiers forth from training camps for civil service and Church service, we want to send them forth prayerfully. Have we ever said, "Why doesn't the Lord bring this war to a close?" Why? Because God isn't ready to end it. This is a war of retribution. So never, never, Luther Leaguers, must we be guilty of dictating to that God of gods as to what he should do; but we should continue to pray. You will remember in our first great war, Washington was not too humble to pray. Then Lincoln said, "It is not so important that God should be on our side, as that we should be on God's side." So, Luther Leaguers, let us pray that we should be on God's side. So, Luther Leaguers, let us pray and train for our service for Jesus Christ.

This reserve force is necessary. We have all heard of that army which came back after the Civil War. As they were marching up Pennsylvania avenue, in Washington, first the officers' carriages came up the street, and a cheer went up that rent the very heavens, but as the common soldiers, worn and weary, came by, there wasn't a sound. The people were simply overcome by emotion. It was the reserve force that had really touched the hearts of the people —and so, after all, it is the reserve force that does the work.

So let us just remember that it is the little things that count—the little things in Church work. Let us go home fired with a zeal that we have really accomplished something. "Be ye not only hearers of the Word, but doers also."

Mr. O. C. C. Fetta, Indianapolis, President of the Luther League of Indiana, read a very practical paper on "Training the Youth for Church Leadership."

In considering this subject, we must understand first of all that training the youth for Church leadership is not merely to qualify young people to fill acceptably the offices of Luther League presidents, Sunday School superintendents and teachers, and particular positions of authority, but we must train all the young people of the Church to prepare them to take a more prominent part in the work and activities of the Church, for the progress and growth of the Church must be measured not merely by the loyalty and activity of her officers, but by the co-operation and support of all members.

In the first place, it is essential to recognize this fact of tremendous importance—that every person in the Church is a leader whether he wants to be or not, and for that reason training for Church leadership should extend to all the young people of the Church. Ignoring this fact accounts for the limited number of capable and efficient leaders in our Churches. Instead of recognizing the fact that all the young people in our Churches are leaders—good or bad—and training them for better service, frequently we erroneously select only those having special gifts or talents of some kind. It is of paramount importance, therefore, to train and develop for Church leadership not only those specially talented or educated, but every member of our League, for they will be leaders of some kind, any way. Jesus did not choose His disciples from those who might be especially qualified by reason of education, influence or training, but rather because they desired to serve and would listen to Him and heed His teaching. Many of you Luther Leaguers have better educations than those humble, uneducated fishermen who were the apostles of Jesus. It is vital, therefore, that we train all the young people in our Leagues for Church leadership, rather than those only who may be specially qualified for such service.

Assuming then that it shall be our aim and purpose to train all the young people in our churches for leadership, we may inquire as to the nature of the training essential to true leadership. Assuredly any training to develop leadership must give him a Christian education, increase his loyalty and stimulate his powers of initiaitve or leadership. All real leaders in the work of the Church must possess these three important qualities: knowledge, loyalty, and initiative. In no business or profession should youth be so highly trained and equipped as for Church leadership, for to be a Lutheran leader means something and requires much. And the Church—particularly the Luther League—must see to it and assume responsibility for this great task.

In mentioning these three important requisites of Church leadership—knowledge, loyalty, and initiative —I have emphasized the three cardinal objectives or purposes of the Luther League, and for the development and training of the youth in these important things, the Lutheran Church is depending largely upon the Luther League. In fact, every function of the Luther League trains young people for Church leadership.

After these two instructive papers, the Convention joined in singing "In the Hour of Trial, Jesus Plead for Me."

Following this hymn, Rev. Albert L.

Benze, of Toledo, delivered the address of the morning on "Christ, the Leaguer's Model Worker," and said in part:

Christ Jesus is our Model Worker to whom the Church must turn in its effort to apply the Truth in turbulent days. He is interested in the triumph of His truth, He is working as indefatigably as when on earth for the salvation of men.

Nor did Christ's work culminate simply in opening heaven's gates to an elect few. Rather, also does it mean the sanctifying and transforming of the human race here and now, without which there could hardly be a life of bliss hereafter!

The gospels show that Christ's desire to put the Golden Rule into practice was what He meant when He said He must be about His Father's business. And doing the work of Him that sent Him, began in yonder obscure little carpenter shop at Nazareth, fashioning yokes for oxen, and later emerging to build habitations for His contemporaries. As He would treat men so should men's conduct be toward one another. As He builded for time and eternity so should His followers build. This toiling in His early manhood, in the sweat of His brow at hard physical and mental labor, was but a prelude to the work in behalf of men's bodies and souls which marked the beginning of the coming of His kingdom. The Apostolic annals we call the gospels are brimming over with the busy acts of Jesus. Would we see our Model at the height of His holy activity and learn the secret of His wonderful power, then turn to that illuminated page, from the inspired pen of St. Luke. It is a picture of Christ, the matured worker at Capernaum. He does nothing at random; we find nothing haphazard in our Model. It was not chance that led Him to select Capernaum for His home and headquarters after His bitter experience at Nazareth. It must have been with design that Great Worker chose this center of the manufacturing district of Palestine for His activities. Think of the people to whom He could speak of the Golden Rule, whose lot He could ameliorate by teaching them how to live, whose lives He could irradiate with golden gleams of the world to come. No selfish hiding behind monastery or convent wall. No scholarly ensconsing of oneself behind stacks of books with only an occasional superficial speculation about one's fellows. No self-satisfied aloofness and snobbery which only at rare intervals has any prompting of charity for a world in misery.

And *this* is the secret of Christ's power. Prayer! He "drew on the infinite resources" and accomplished miracles! We are not expected to do everything He did. But we could accomplish infinitely more than we do, if we drew our strength and power from His source. This is the Christ of the gospels. And He is your Model Worker here and now in this day and generation.

The living, working Christ of history is your Christ, "God with us," your model! It is true we are passing through a world upheaval. The old is passing away and all things are becoming new. Is it a time for discouragement or for telling work? We who have been found faithful in the past, shall we give up in despair and count all lost because the world is assuming a new aspect? Shall our "fires become damped and our drafts checked, and shall idleness and dissipation give birth to pessimism and despair?" Know ye not that it is a great privilege to live when all things are being made over? And he who is faithful has nothing to fear, but will be given a definite share in this day of reconstruction. Never has our country needed more sturdy, loyal, fit men and women than now. Never has the Church of the Lord Christ needed more willing workers than today. For remember we are not building up a society. The Luther League is not an end in itself, but rather a means to an end. That end is to unitedly, faithfully support and strengthen the Church our Saviour founded. 'Twere far better for the League to die, than to forget our motto: "*Of* the Church, *by* the Church and *for* the Church." *For the Church*—that is the work our Model Worker will bless and through and by His Church He will bless humanity.

This is God's day, oh ye of little faith! And His temple of truth must be rebuilt along greater, better and holier lines and redeemed from whatever weaknesses which have so long hampered and despoiled it. He with faith e'en now discerns the tramp of the myriads bringing in the new kingdom which is "righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost."

"Go up to the mountain and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it and fill it with glory and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts." The doubter and the fearful one will have no share in the rebuilding. As even Artaxerxes, successor of Darius, beautified the new temple, so the present generation will be called upon to beautify and enhance ours. "Be of good cheer," said Haggai to Zerubbabel. But Christ, our Model Worker, says today: "The gates of hell shall not prevail against *my* Church," and all things are possible to him that trusteth." It has been aptly said: "This spirit of absolute trust, is the sifter of character, the tester of purposes, its own inspiration, and the key to power."

Let the old then crumble away. There will be a new and more glorious temple. And in that temple our Model Worker calls us to the noblest deeds, the application of the Golden Rule, the sanctifying of the nation and guarding its integrity, the Samaritan work of lifting up our fellow. Even that has the blessing of our Model, who once declared that a cup of "cold water might be so given as to embody the whole gospel of human brotherhood." Anything that you can do to advance the cause of our Model Worker in this our beloved land, is worth all the consecration and effort which we shall put forth. Let us not only give back to the Church, and to native land as much as we got out, but *more*, leaving *both* stronger and better and more fragrant because of our labors and lives.

This is the only way to qualify as citizens in the coming kingdom of God and man.

Two sectional conferences were held after the adjournment of the Convention, one a demonstration of Junior League work by Miss Brenda L. Mehlhouse, of Norristown, Pa. It was full of instruction and inspiration for junior workers. The other conference in the morning was that of Intermediate workers, conducted by Rev. C. M. Teufel, of Middletown, Md. In opening this conference Rev. Teufel said:

We are in conference this morning on what I do not suppose has had representatives in large numbers who can speak of experience concerning the particular grade of which we are to speak, because the report we heard yesterday shows that there are but few intermediate organizations in the Luther League. That means that we can have the thrill of a pioneer movement. We want, therefore, in particular to hear of those with us who can speak of experience in Intermediate work, and to hear of suggestions as to how we may promote it. Our meeting this morning may result in a mighty impetus in behalf of Intermediate Leagues in our churches. The Lutheran Church stands for the interests of the youth. We recognize this through confirmation, but our youth at that period can hardly be said to have reached the Senior grade.

It is this intervening period in the life of the youth, boy or girl, the adolescent age, that we are to consider this morning. It is an important time in the life of any boy or girl. Even we as a Luther League must have boys and girls in training for active membership in the League. We must have a training school to fill the ranks of Senior membership and to increase it.

The question was: Who are the Intermediates? which was answered by Rev. Rupp, of Pennsylvania, saying:

The Intermediates are the most neglected, the most important, and the most perplexing contingent before the Luther League. The age limit is probably from 12 to 18. It is the period of adolescence; it is the period when the foundations of education are laid, including probably second-year high school. It means the time of physical change, when the youth develops from childhood to manhood and womanhood. It means the development of the mind and it means the preparation in every way of the youth. The mature age comes at the end of this period, which we say is eighteen according to governmental definition. But above all, it is the period when the youth must be held for Christianity. It is a very critical period, as we have illustrated in the life of the celebrated novelist, George Eliot, who at this period lost her mother and her Christian belief because she was not held at this time, and lost it never to regain it. It is the period when we have our Luther League of

the future in the making. It is to the boys and girls of the Intermediates that the Luther League will turn for its members of the future.

Sixth Session

This session opened in the usual way. The minutes of the previous meetings were read and approved. It was indeed a business session. The report of the Credential Committee showed 200 registered delegates and visitors. The Auditing Committee reported the Treasurer's books correct. The following officers were elected: President, C. T. A. Anderson, Chicago; First Vice-President, O. C. Rohde, Toledo; Second Vice-President, Geo. W. Rapps, Milwaukee; General Secretary, Harry Hodges, Philadelphia; Literature Secretary, Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, Omaha; Treasurer, G. Walter Banker, Wilkes Barre. For members of the Executive Committee to serve four years: Mr. I. S. Runyon, New York City; Rev. G. F. Gehr, D.D., Pittsburgh; Rev. M. J. Bieber, D.D., Canada; Mr. J. M. Reynolds, Valatie, New York.

The following resolutions were read by the Rev. Dr. Bieber, chairman of the committee on resolutions, and adopted by the Convention:

Resolved, that this convention express devout thankfulness to God, the Great Head of the Church, for His unspeakable gifts.

That it is sincerely grateful to the Luther League of Buffalo and vicinity, the associated Bible Classes, the pastor, the people, the choir, the organist of Holy Trinity Church, the massed choir, the convention speakers, and all who helped to make this thirteenth convention of the Luther League of America such a pronounced success in this beautiful Empire State city.

Resolved, that this convention rejoices in the fact that the Luther League of America has contributed such a large proportion of the 200,000 Lutheran young men who with the other loyal men of this great nation are willing to pay the supreme sacrifice that world democracy may triumph, a righteous peace may be effected and the cause of humanity and vital Christianity may be extended to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Resolved, that all our local Leagues through prayers, gifts, literature and correspondence keep in close touch with our boys in the nation's service, and that unceasing prayer be made by our Leagues for the President of the United States and the Sovereign of Great Britain, respectively, for all in authority, for the army, the navy and the aviation service, invoking upon them God's protection and blessing.

Resolved, that prayer for the Allied cause be offered at this convention, and that our national hymn be sung.

Resolved, that we express our deep sorrow at the departure of Rev. C. Armand Miller, D. D., Rev. W. K. Frick, D. D., and other Leaguers from our earthly ranks, by a rising vote and by brief silent prayers.

Resolved, that the recommendation of the General Secretary in regard to the relations of the Luther League of America to the United Lutheran Church be referred to the Executive Committee with power to act.

We rejoice that the Rally Hymn has found place in the common service book.

Resolved, that the League pay its entire indebtedness and that the amount required be added to the per capita apportionment; also that a strong effort be made by the proper authorities to raise the unpaid Jubilee Fund.

That the necessary literature in the form of handbooks, tracts, pamphlets, etc., to be used by the General Secretary for League information and inspiration be secured by the Executive Committee.

We deeply deplore the League's low financial condition, which caused the General Secretary to accept another position and thereby relieve the League of his salary. The Luther League of America feels deeply grateful that he retains his position as General Secretary and trust that the state of the treasury will soon again enable him to devote all his time to the League's interest and to secure adequate quarters and necessary assistance.

We rejoice in the steady growth of the League.

We urge the increasing organization of Junior and Intermediate Luther Leagues and suggest that the Executive Committee secure the necessary literature for this important and growing work.

We endorse the recommendation of the General Secretary that the presidents of the State and District Leagues communicate with him in arranging dates for conventions where his presence is required in order that expenses may be minimized.

That the Luther League of America through the Executive Committee apply for membership in the Lutheran Bureau.

We urge the Leaguers to keep track of their members when they move to other localities and report their presence to the Leagues in their new places of abode.

We urge the introduction of the REVIEW in every Leaguers home, and the faithful use of the *Topics* by every League.

We rejoice in the increasing number of diplomas granted for completing the reading course and we urge the introduction of the course into every League.

We rejoice with the Treasurer in the improved condition of the treasury and endorse his recommendation that Senior Leagues be apportioned 15 cents per member and Junior and Intermediate Leagues 5 cents per member. Also that each League contribute $1 toward the publishing of a new Handbook, which entitles it to a copy.

This convention heartily ratifies the action of the Executive Committee in admitting to membership the State League of Michigan, the District League of Wheeling and Vicinity and the local League of Victoria, Texas, and cordially welcomes them to membership.

Resolved, that the thanks of this convention be extended to the Milwaukee Luther League for the cordial invitation to meet in her city in 1920, and we rejoice in the Fort Wayne League's invitation which has been unanimously accepted.

Resolved, that if changes in the topics or other matters pertaining to the province of the Literature Secretary be demed necessary by him, ad interim, the Executive Committee be empowered to make such changes.

Resolved, that a convention number of the REVIEW be again issued, in which shall be published the excellent papers and addresses presented at this convention in addition to the business transacted.

Resolved, that the Executive Committee be respectfully requested to set aside at least one session on the program of the next convention to a school of methods, taking up the practical work of ordination and co-operation of national, State and provincial, district and local Leagues.

Resolved, that we sincerely thank by a rising vote our faithful officers, the President, General Secretary, Literature Secretary, Treasurer, the editor of the REVIEW, and all who have in any way assisted in the development of the Luther League of America.

Resolved, that we pray the blessings of the Almighty God upon the League in its ever expanding service for the Master.

The resolutions on Loyalty were adopted by the Convention rising to its feet and singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and uniting in the collect for our army and navy from the Army and Navy Service Book.

The closing address of the Convention and the climax of the business session was that on "The True Patriotic Spirit," by Rev. Wm. Freas, Office Secretary of the National Lutheran Commission for Soldiers' and Sailors' Welfare, New York. It was a stirring patriotic address and was listened to by the large audience with intense interest. The Convention sang

"Crown His Head With Endless Blessing," and adjourned with prayer and benediction to meet in a sectional conference on officers' and committees' work conducted by Mr. Will Eck, Albany, N. Y. So interesting was this conference that the hour was all too short. The final business session adjourned with prayer and benediction.

The Grand Rally

The thirteenth biennial convention of the Luther League of America was brought to an official close with the Grand Rally at Elmwood Music Hall. Besides the delegates and visitors from out-of-town, hundreds of members of local Lutheran churches attended this meeting. The devotional services were conducted by Revs. Hadley and Bieber. The music was in charge of William Benbow as director and Mrs. Nellie M. Gould, organist. The singing by the chorus of the special numbers of the program indicated that they had been thoroughly trained by a competent director and the rendition of the music by the chorus was thoroughly enjoyed. A feature of this session of the Convention as also of the first session was the solos by Miss Annette Kahler, who sang with great feeling and expression. No hymn of the Convention was sung by the audience with more volume than "The Star Spangled Banner" immediately after the organ prelude "Cortege," by Faulkes. It was an inspiration to hear the multitude of Lutherans sing the Luther League Rally Hymn, "O Christians Leagued Together," as it was sung by the large audience in Elmwood Music Hall. The address of the evening was delivered by Hon. Andrew J. Nellis, of Johnstown, N. Y., on the subject "Our National Heritage." Judge Nellis said in part:

The subjects of consideration and discussion in the convention now drawing to a close were obviously the ones to be considered in times like these by a body of patriotic religious workers whose lives are consistently devoted to the enlargement of Christ in both Church and State. The civilized world, particularly our own part of it, is now brought to a stage where it must determine if any human being has a divine right or shall be permitted to impose his own will upon a subject people and through them upon other nations; or whether the will of God as manifested by the Divine Christ shall be supreme. Our Saviour and Lord, when occasion was sought to convict him of seditious utterance, said, "Render, therefore, unto Cæsar the things which be Cæsar's and unto God the things which be God's." He did not thereby imply that God and the Government were at the poles in opposition. God is and must necessarily be recognized in every just government. The things which be God's may be known of them who observe to keep the first, great supreme commandment, "Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with all thine heart and with all thy soul and with all thy might." The things which be without usurpation of Cæsar may be discerned of them who observe to keep the other great commandment like unto the first, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

The nation wide observance of these commandments to love God supremely and one's neighbor with an unselfish love is impossible in an autocracy. It is only possible in a truly Christian democracy. In our national heritage we possess the embryo of such a democracy which can be brought to the abundant flower of maturity by the Christian zeal of the churches and their membership in individual life and corporate action.

Our nation has traveled far on the road toward an ideal government where God is recognized as supreme and man's duty to serve his fellow is a dominant force in life, both public and private, but it has a long, long way yet to go before reaching its goal. Popular government itself is comparatively of recent years. One century and one-half have not yet elapsed since the achieved independence and established here the rudiments of a democracy. The Massachusetts State House and the Capitol at Washington are the oldest buildings in the world devoted to the use of a popular representative assembly. In the last seventy-five years a revolution against autocratic dominance has occurred among all the other civilized nations of the earth, Germany and Austria, if civilized, alone excepted. This advance toward a Christian democracy will not be halted at the command of the German Emperor. Nor will the measurably free peoples of the world travel back to the age-old despotisms from which they are being delivered. But there is grave danger that the mass of mankind in shaking off any human control contrary to the will of the people will forsake also the faith of the fathers, deny the Fatherhood of God and the divinity of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. To guard against this danger there must be united effort of the churches to enlist a large and steadfast army under the banner of the Cross to spread far and wide the Gospel Story and inculcate a sound conviction that the Bible does reveal the will of God to man and is not to be discarded as an ancient foundation for a faith making for, despotism and against freedom of life and will.

Mr. C. T. A. Anderson, President of the Luther League of America, in a few concluding remarks adjourning the Convention expressed his thanks to the delegates and visitors and to the local committee for the wholehearted manner with which they had entered into the spirit of the Convention, which had proved to be one of the most successful ever held by the League despite difficulties due to the war conditions. The Grand Rally was appropriately closed with the Lord's Prayer, the doxology and the benediction.

It is said that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," and it was no doubt with this thought in mind that the good people of Buffalo planned the delightful excursion to Niagara Falls on Friday, August 30. Those who had never seen "The Falls" were awe-struck with the wonders of this work by the hand of the Master. Those who had been there before enjoyed going again, for one never wearies of this evidence of an Almighty Creator.

A great many of our boys in the service of our country were missed, and prayer ascended for the absent soldiers and sailors of our church. Nevertheless it was an enthusiastic company of young people that assembled at all the sessions of the Convention, and we hope that those who were fortunate enough to be present will carry home with them thoughts and inspiration that will make their home Leagues in every way better. It was not without sadness that we bade farewell to the City of Buffalo, to those whom we had learned as fellow-workers and to those whom we had met again after two or perhaps four years

of separation. But all who had attended the Convention could say:

"And as our League has chosen
This emblem for its own,
The coat of arms of Luther,
Thy servant, Lord, alone;
So may we e'er remember
Its meaning given by him,
Whose memory shall never
Within our hearts grow dim."

The Public Schools of Buffalo

BY FLORENCE R. STERN.

THE Buffalo public schools are seventy-three in number. Sixty-two of these are elementary schools and five are high schools. There are four vocational schools, one truant school and one teachers' training school.

The elementary schools are divided into three departments, primary, intermediate and grammar grades. Each group has a general supervisor in charge of it.

A general supervisor of extension work has charge of the evening schools, vacation schools and special classes.

Pre-vocational work is done in the elementary schools. It consists of household arts for girls, wood and metal work for boys, and commercial course for boys and girls. Typewriting is also taught in many of the elementary schools. In the pre-vocational courses only one-half of the time is spent in the shop, the other half being spent in the classroom.

The five high schools are Hutchinson-Central, Masten Park, Lafayette, Technical High and South Park High School.

The Hutchinson-Central was donated to Buffalo by Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hutchinson, both former members of the old school. About 1,700 boys and girls attend this school. This school possesses a fine organ, a grand piano, a victrola and a moving picture apparatus. Lunch rooms accommodating more than a thousand pupils are one of the unique features of this school, as are also the elevators which carry pupils from floor to floor. The Hutchinson-Central High School ranks among the most complete and up to date of modern high schools.

The Technical High School was founded in 1904. It has grown from four teachers to fifty-one. There are many shops in this school. They are as follows: Plumbing shop, steam and gas engineering laboratory, machine shop, forge, foundry, power plant, pattern shop, wood turning, advanced gas engineering and materials testing.

The South Park High School is situated in South Park Avenue and covers one city block. A distinct feature of this school is a modern housekeeping apartment completely furnished in every detail. The auditorium has a seating capacity of 1,300 and a stage 42 feet in width. The gymnasium is in an adjoining building and it is the largest public or private gymnasium in Buffalo. This school also possesses an organ and a moving picture apparatus.

The Teachers' Training School is situated in Public School No. 10 on Delaware Avenue near Huron Street. Here high school graduates holding a teacher's course diploma or its equivalent receive training for teaching. A two years' course provides instruction in psychology, history and principles of education, school management, methods in English, arithmetic, history, geography, nature study and physiology. Drawing, manual training, music, physical training and penmanship are taught by special directors.

The Buffalo State Normal School occupies a block bounded by Jersey, Fourteenth and York Streets and Normal Avenue. It was founded in 1871. It has a registration of over 500 normal students in day classes and nearly 100 in normal evening classes. The model school includes grades from the kindergarten to the high school and numbers over 300 children. This school trains young men and women for teaching in the elementary, primary and kindergarten grades. Household arts, including cookery, sewing and millinery and vocational training (which includes training for teaching any of the trades) are also taught here. This school has a fine location and modern equipments and it is a fine structure. It is a new building and was opened in September, 1914.

The Department of Extension Work includes evening school centers, vacation school centers, open air classes, classes for the mentally subnormal, probation classes, truant school and other school activities which do not enter into the regular day school curriculum. The work is divided into four sections.

The Technical High School courses are restricted to those courses connected with the trades. In the Evening Technical High School commercial photography is taught in one Vocational School.

The most important feature of the Evening Grammar School work is the instruct-

ing of foreigners in the English language and principles of citizenship.

The Summer Vacation Schools have grown steadily and are largely manual in character, although some attempt is being made to give book work to children of grades 3 to 7 who need help in elementary subjects. A special feature of the summer vacation work is the Summer Open Air School, where physically defective children are enrolled. They are under constant supervision of a trained nurse and a physician. The pupils take advantage of the swimming pools also.

The special classes for subnormal children were organized in 1895. The pupils are given a physical and mental examination before gaining admission to these classes.

Pre-vocational classes have been organized for the purpose of probationing truant boys. The boys are given much manual work, a warm meal at noon, plenty of exercise and a sympathetic teacher.

Mothers' classes have been formed in some grammar schools to teach mothers to make over used garments, and they are also instructed in the use of English, as many of them are non-English speaking foreigners.

The Truant School will some day be transferred to Colden, where a farm of 130 acres has been purchased by Buffalo. At present the lads, through rigid school work, are learning the lesson of home-making.

Industrial education is constantly on the increase. In the first four grades manual work consists of modeling, cutting, etc. Cardboard construction is done in the fifth grade. In the sixth grade whittling and sloyd work are done, and in the seventh, eighth and ninth grades shop work is done.

Pre-vocational training is given a great deal of attention in our schools. The seventh, eighth and ninth grade girls of four consolidated districts are taught household arts. A model flat is one of the unique features at this school. In another school industrial arts for boys is provided.

There are now in the neighborhood of thirty schools where domestic science is taught. These schools are centers where pupils from neighboring schools receive instruction. The seventh and eighth grades receive one lesson weekly of ninety minutes each; the ninth grades receive one lesson weekly of 135 minutes each. Instructors in domestic science take charge of the feeding of the open air classes. Classes of defectives are served a hot luncheon. In some schools luncheons are prepared and served to pupils who would have no hot food at home or who live at a great distance.

Sewing is taught in the sixty-two elementary schools of Buffalo. In addition to the regular work, extension work is carried on in the following centers: Dole Street School for Boys, Crippled Children's Home, Buffalo Orphan Asylum and the Church Home. Mothers' classes are maintained after school hours for women of the neighborhood in the foreign sections of the city.

In gymnastics rapid strides have been made. Three grammar schools have fully equipped gymnasiums and twenty-three schools have a partial equipment. Athletics for boys and folk and esthetic dancing for girls are some kinds of physical training in our schools. High school boys receive physical training also. Four high schools have gymnasiums and six public schools and one high school have had swimming tanks installed.

Vocal music is a required subject in the schools. Sixty minutes a week is the time devoted to formal music recitation in the elementary schools. There are several teachers of violin for the after-school violin classes in the elementary schools. Several elementary schools have orchestras which meet regularly for rehearsals.

Kindergartens were established in the public schools in 1891. At present there are kindergartens in nearly all of the public schools. In most schools there are morning and afternoon sessions, and counting each session as a separate kindergarten, there are nearly 140 in all. One school has a Montessori class in the afternoon. A kindergarten at the J. N. Adam Memorial Hospital at Perrysburg is maintained by the city of Buffalo. Mothers' meetings are held in connection with most of the kindergartens.

The Buffalo schools rank among the best in the country.

FOURTH LIBERTY LOAN SLOGANS

Bonds Buy Food for Soldiers. Buy Liberty Bonds.

Money Means Munitions. Buy Liberty Bonds.

Bonds Build Tanks. Buy Liberty Bonds.

Bonds Build Airplanes. Buy Liberty Bonds.

Bonds Build Ships. Buy Liberty Bonds.

Liberty Bond or Liberty Bound, which will you have it?

Buy Bonds and Back the Guns that Hit the Huns.

Bonds Put the Dam in Potsdam.

Bar Barbarism by Buying Bonds.

The More Bonds the Fewer Casualties.

Save for Your Country or Slave for the Hun.

Luther League of Wisconsin

Twentieth Annual Convention at La Crosse, June 25, 26 and 27

BY NORMA OELHAFEN.

ASSEMBLED in convention at Holy Trinity Church, La Crosse, Wisconsin, the Luther League of Wisconsin held its twentieth convention and one of the most interesting and instructive annual meetings in its history.

The theme of the convention was "Keep the Home Fires Burning."

The convention opened Tuesday evening with vesper service, followed by an address of welcome by Prof. W. C. Greenwaldt. Mr. George W. Rapps, president of the Luther League of Wisconsin, responded. A stirring address entitled "Our Depleted Ranks," by Rev. G. Keller Rubrecht, of Minneapolis, was the feature of the evening service. Those who heard it were deeply impressed with the speaker's reference to the critical period in which we found ourselves, at a time when a struggle between the principles of democracy and autocracy was being waged to determine the destinies of coming generations.

Wednesday morning's devotional service was followed by a business session. The president, Mr. Rapps, stated that much progress had been made during the year. He spoke of various activities, splendid cooperation received from officers and committees, asked for better response from those written to, and he urged that every individual do his share in the League work in keeping the home fires burning until our dear ones return.

The treasurer read the statement for the year as follows:

RECEIPTS, 1917-18.

To balance	$29.22
Wisconsin State L. L. dues	14.70
Collection Milwaukee convention	59.64
Collection for L. L. REVIEWS	34.70
	$138.26

DISBURSEMENTS, 1917-18.

Railroad fare—speaker	$3.00
Supplies	16.58
Printing	14.50
Jubilee Fund	25.00
LUTHER LEAGHE REVIEWS	30.00
Luther League of America dues	20.82
	$109.90
To balance	28.36
	$138.26

The reports of the various committees followed.

The Luther Leagues of Holy Trinity Church, La Crosse; Church of the Incarnation, Milwaukee, and the First English Lutheran Church of Platteville were admitted into the State League.

Messages of congratulation were received from Kansas, South Dakota, Ohio and Nebraska State Leagues.

Wednesday afternoon's devotional service was followed by a "Round Table Discussion" touching on problems confronting local and State societies, and participated in by pastors, delegates and visitors. The discussion was conducted by Mr. Harry Hodges, General Secretary, Luther League of America, who touched on many interesting features.

An invitation extended by Luther Memorial Church of Madison to hold our next convention there was unanimously accepted.

On Wednesday evening devotional service preceded an inspiring address by Mr. C. T. Anderson, Chicago, president of the Luther League of America, under the caption of "Called to the Colors." Mr. Anderson's strong statements of, "We believe in supporting our Government not only with our means but with our lives," "Every effort being put forth to save Liberty for humanity," "Our universal aim is Liberty, Love and Peace," and "Let it be said that we as Lutherans have answered the call of God and Country," speak for themselves.

A GROUP OF THE DELEGATES TO THE WISCONSIN CONVENTION

Sister Mina Pape, of Milwaukee, spoke on the work of the deaconess.

The morning session on Thursday was taken up chiefly with reports of committees and the election of officers.

The auditing committee reported the treasurer's report correct. A resolution was adopted directing that all boys of the various Luther Leagues serving the colors

be provided with comfort kits, Testaments and Army and Navy Service-books. It was further resolved that a committee be appointed to act in harmony with the plans of the Junior and Intermediate Committee of the Luther League of America.

Mr. George W. Rapps, of Milwaukee, who has served the State League faithfully and well for the past three years, was re-elected President. The other officers are: Vice-President, Miss Adelaide Miller, Madison; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Lydia Moeller, Milwaukee; Recording Secretary, Miss Esther Heideman, Waterloo; and Treasurer, Miss Edith Horn, Platteville.

Thursday afternoon a launch trip up the Mississippi River was given in honor of the delegates, which was greatly enjoyed and will long be remembered for the exceptional scenery along the banks of the Father of Waters.

Thursday evening the grand rally and last session of the Convention was held, and those who attended had the pleasure of hearing two very interesting and inspiring addresses. One by Mr. Harry Hodges was on "the Luther League Training Camp." Some of Mr. Hodges' especially interesting remarks were, "The Luther League is the training camp for young people for service in the Lutheran Church, first because it is based on God's work, second because the Luther League emphasizes those things on which the Lutheran Church agrees, not differs; now is no time for partisanship but for Conservation, Loyalty and Preparedness." The other address, by Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, of Omaha, Nebraska, on "Cash and Powder," was brought to a sentimental climax in a pleasant meter of poetic toast to Our Boys.

This brought to a final close the twentieth annual convention of the Luther League of Wisconsin.

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BOOK REVIEWS

"Creation Ex Nihilo—The Physical Universe: A Finite and Temporal Entity," by Rev. L. Franklin Gruber, with a foreword by G. Frederick Wright, LL.D., F.G.S.A. Richard G. Badger, Publisher, The Gorman Press, Boston. Pp. 316, index. Price, $1.50 net.

This book is one of the books in the library of religious thought. Dr. Gruber is well qualified by years of study of this subject to write this book, which students of physical science and Christian believers will want to read. It is not like reading, but it is reading that is informing, presented in a style that is clear, lucid and easily understood. It deals with one of the most important subjects today before the reading public. "Throughout the whole, the aim has been clearness in argument no less than perspicuity in language." We think success has been measurably obtained. The Table of Contents is practically an outline of the argument and gives a suggestion of the thoroughness and scope of the treatment. The author says, "And yet, although we might thus have given only the conclusions of such processes of reasoning, for more certain conviction we let the processes, in an abbreviated form, appear with their conclusions. Thus, we believe that our argument for the creation of the Universe out of nothing by supreme spiritual Personality—whom the Christian adores as God—will be simple enough to the average reader and yet have some interest for the man of science, while we trust it will bring conviction to both." "The supposed conflict between Christianity and legitimate or true science has, therefore, no existence in reality. . . . The evidence of both is in accord with consistent reason. Therefore, if nature came from God, as we have proved it did, then the natural inference should be that the Scriptures also came from God." "The reverent prayer of every true scientific investigator should be for both wisdom and grace. It should also be a prayer of genuine thanksgiving, as was that of the great Kepler, who in his dedication to God of his 'Harmony of the World,' gave expression to the following fervent prayer: 'O Thou, who through the light of Nature, dost arouse in us the longing after the light of grace in order to exalt us into the light of glory, I thank Thee, O my God and Creator, that Thou dost permit me to rejoice in Thy works.'" We are glad to call the attention of the Luther Leaguers to this substantial book by one of our Lutheran pastors, who from the beginning, has been devoted to the interests of the Luther League. Thoughtful laymen as well as pastors throughout the Church should own a copy of this book.

"Catechism Lessons," a practical lesson paper for the study of the Catechism, by Adolph T. Hanser, for the Sunday school. Published in seven numbers by the Lutheran Publishing Company, 105 Florida St., Buffalo, N. Y.

"Enjoying Church Work," by Rev. L. H. Schuh, Ph.D. Pp. 83, board. Price, 40 cents. Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, Ohio.

This little booklet is an interesting discussion of an important subject. Dr. Schuh makes the point that an essential factor in the enjoyment of Church work is the large amount of intelligence and information upon the doctrines of one's Church. It is a readable and helpful little treatise. Pastors might put it into the hands of their Church members to advantage.

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—Prof. G. C. Gast, president of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., has been called as successor to the late Prof. George H. Schodde in Capital University, Columbus, Ohio.

REV. LUTHER M. KUHNS, Editor, Omaha, Nebraska; with W. C. Stoever, Litt.D., Philadelphia, Pa.; J. M. Reynolds, Valatie, N. Y.; I. S. Runyon, New York, N. Y.; A. T. Michler, Philadelphia, Pa., *as special associates, and the co-operation of the Literature Committee of the Luther League of America.* Send all articles, communications and news items that concern the Editorial Department to the Editor, Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, 440 Paxton Block, Omaha, Nebraska.

Luther League Review

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Editorial

MEN WANTED

That's the call from every quarter now. And to every such call men are responding. Yet to some calls there are not enough responses. One of these calls that is not adequately answered is the call to teach religion. In the February issue of the REVIEW a writer says that in one branch of the Lutheran Church there are one hundred and twenty congregations without congregations without pastors. If the proportion holds good, there must be, throughout the Church, several hundred congregations whose pulpits are vacant.

This means that many centers and sources of information about religions will be closed, at least temporarily, and the communities they serve will be without the salutary influence of the Gospel, unless some unusual provision for maintaining these centers is made. That is, in order that the worship of God and the teaching of religion may be continued in many communities, it will be necessary to make some special provision for leadership in the conduct of public worship and in the teaching function.

Recognizing this special need, one of the general bodies of the Church, the General Synod, has taken the first steps in what appears to be the best, if not the only available, plan to meet this demand. This plan is to select laymen, who by tests of practical experience in Church work have been found competent, and who upon examination as to their ideas of theology are found to be sound in this respect, are to be publicly commissioned to perform, under proper supervision, some of the duties generally discharged by ordained ministers. These duties include, especially, the conduct of public worship, with the delivery of the sermon, and general pastoral work.

This action on the part of the General Synod should be regarded by every man in the Church, especially every young man, as a challenge to inquire of himself whether he has not the qualities of mind and heart which, developed by some special instruction and training, under his own pastor, would fit him to do this work. The need is real, the call for workers is insistent, the response should be ready and hearty. Will *you* consider it?

LOCAL AND DISTRICT LEAGUE SECRETARIES, ATTENTION!

The criticism has recently been made to one of our editors that the news columns of the REVIEW were not up to date and that many items were "stale." We cannot print news before we receive it! We appeal to our many corresponding secretaries to send us news while it is news. Too often we secure items regarding events two or three months old. As the REVIEW is a monthly, our news, consequently, will be four months or more old before we can print it! Help us to make the REVIEW up to date in this respect.

THE FOURTH LIBERTY LOAN

The campaign for the Fourth Liberty Loan begins September 28 and closes October 19.

We have a great inspiration for a great effort. The news from the battle front inspires every American heart, not only with pride and patriotism but with a great incentive to do his or her part. There is no shirking, no shifting of the individual burden, no selfishness by American soldiers in France; there should be none here. We are both supporting the same country and the same cause—our Army in one way, ourselves in another. Theirs is the harder part, but at least we can do our part as promptly and loyally and efficiently as they do theirs.

A DAILY DUTY

Each day every American soldier in France is confronted by a great duty. Our Army there has a great task to perform

for our country, for the world, for civilization, and for humanity. Our soldiers are doing their duty with a courage and fidelity and efficiency that thrill every heart.

Each day every American citizen at home is confronted by a great duty, a duty as imperative upon him or her as the duty of our soldiers is upon them. The American people have a great task to perform. It is to support to the limit of their ability our Army, our Navy, our country at war.

To work with increased energy and efficiency so that our national production may be increased; to economize in consumption so that more material and labor and transportation may be left free for the uses of the Government; and with the resultant savings to support the Government financially is the daily duty of every American. It is a duty that will be met by every American whose heart is with our soldiers in France, who glories in their courage and fighting ability and their success.

THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

A new worker in the missionary field has just entered upon his extensive labors in the West Indian islands. Dr. Jose Marcial, a native of Spain, a graduate of the University of Madrid, well known in literary and religious circles, came to the United States at the request of the American Bible Society last winter. After some months of study of the Society's methods and general missionary activities in these islands, he sailed for Porto Rico, and we are happy to announce his safe arrival. He will visit the Virgin Islands, where the United States has assumed new responsibilities; Cuba, Haiti, where remarkable changes are taking place, and Santo Domingo before returning to report on the needs of this extensive field. The Spanish and other Scriptures are in demand everywhere and very wide circulation will help to increase the harmony already existing in those countries with the ideals of the United States.

FIRST YEAR OF THE WAR

Since the entrance of the United States into the war, on Good Frday, Aprl 6, 1917, the American Bible Society has issued in its Army and Navy editions two million two hundred and thirty-one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one (2,231,831) volumes of Scriptures. By far the greater part of these have been free gifts to the Chaplains of the United States Army and Navy for distribution among the troops, and to the War Work Council of the Young Men's Christian Association for the same purpose. Special rates have been made on all the other copies, in all cases below cost, and often very much below the cost of manufacture. The Society is grateful that it has been possible to render this service to the American forces and to the American churches.

Two weeks before the time promised, the Special Grant of a million copies (1,000,000) of New Testaments to the Army and Navy through the Young Men's Christian Association was fulfilled, and seven thousand (7,000) volumes in addition delivered; this in spite of all the very great difficulties which had to be overcome, owing to the fuel, transportation, and climatic conditions of the winter.

AMERICAN AND GERMAN EFFICIENCY

The searchlight of war has brought out many interesting facts, and one of these is that the vaunted German efficiency will not always stand the test of comparison with American efficiency.

The Germans boasted of being the greatest farmers on earth. Investigation shows that in efficiency in agriculture, measured by the produce per acre, America being graded 100, Belgium leads the world, at 205; Great Britain comes second, at 164; and Germany third, at 155; America comes fourth.

But the better test is the man test rather than the acre test, and here America leads the world by over 2 to 1. Again, grading America at 100 per farm worker, Great Britain produces 43 and Germany 41. The American farmer cultivates 27 acres, the German farmer but 7. With the aid of vast quantities of fertilizer the German produces more per acre, but he produces at a much greater cost per bushel and he produces much less than half as much per man.

Manitoba expects to export butter to the value of over $1,000,000 this year. Up to June 1 this year, with the grass season only well begun, 56 cars of butter had been sent out of the province.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Owing to the pressure of Convention Reports on the columns of THE REVIEW and the frequent changes in addresses of our men with the colors it is necessary to discontinue the publication of the lists of names of Leaguers in the United States service.

General Secretary's Letter

DEAR FRIENDS:

The Thirteenth Convention of the Luther League of America is past and a matter of history, but its influence will be felt in the Life of our Church for years to come.

There were two hundred registrations, and the spirit was fine, the papers excellent, the addresses inspiring, the conferences helpful and the social atmosphere all that was to be desired.

The beautiful Trinity Church was a splendid setting for the program, which was timely and well rendered. A vision was given our Leaguers of the position of the Lutheran Church in the great World Crisis and the opportunities which are theirs to serve their country through the ministrations of their Church.

The reports showed great progress during the biennium; 9,500 new members were added to the roll, $3,400 in dues collected, $3,400 on account of the Jubilee Fund received, which, together with other contributions, made an increase in the receipts of $4,300 over the past biennium. All this was accomplished in spite of the fact that the General Secretary works in an office the size of a cigar box, writes his own letters with two fingers on a typewriter, and during the past year has been serving in two positions that he might relieve the Luther League of his salary. What could be accomplished if he might devote his entire time to the work and have an adequate office equipment?

In spite of our good showing, however, we are still in the woods. We owe our secretaries $1,000 and our publisher $3,000. So impressed were our delegates with the possibilities of the cause, that they voted to raise the per capita apportionment for 1919 to 15c for seniors and 5c for juniors and intermediates; the junior and intermediate apportionment to be used entirely for the expansion of junior and intermediate work. This drastic action is significant as it came from the floor of the convention as an amendment to a recommendation of the Treasurer that the apportionment be raised to 10c. It means that the delegates were alive to the issue and I bespeak the hearty co-operation of their constituents. In these days when we are talking in billions and spending money so freely for all other purposes we cannot expect to stand rightly with God if His cause receives not its commensurate share. "Let a man examine himself and so let him give; not grudgingly nor of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver."

The Executive Committee was empowered to treat with the Ways and Means Committee of the United Lutheran Church in America for recognition of the Luther League of America as its official Young People's Organization.

Naturally resolutions were adopted affirming our belief of the righteousness of the cause for which our country is fighting and pledging ourselves and all that is ours to its consummation.

The Pennsylvania League offered a resolution asking the Luther League of America to suggest a plan whereby our young people coming as strangers to our larger cities may be cared for and safeguarded. The matter was referred to our local Leagues for serious consideration and action. A suggested plan will appear in the REVIEW in the near future.

The Grand Rally in Elmwood Music Hall was a fitting climax to the convention, where we were treated to some fine music by Miss Annette Kahler and the Convention Chorus under the direction of Mr. William Benbow, and a stirring address on "Our National Heritage," by the Hon. A. J. Nellis.

The day following the convention we were the guests of our Buffalo hosts at Niagara Falls, where we gazed upon one of the seven wonders of the world, and paid a visit to the home of the shredded wheat biscuit.

The weather was ideal, our hosts gracious, the delegates alert and appreciative, and as a result this convention will doubtless prove to be one of the best in our history. Will you help to make these results far-reaching and lasting by making them operative in your own League?

Permit me to suggest that all our local leagues make their next meeting a "Convention Echo Meeting," using the current issue of the REVIEW as a program, having the speeches, papers, conferences and reports of the late Buffalo Convention read and discussed. Even if more than one meeting is necessary it will prove time well spent. I ask every reader of this letter to read the full account of the convention.

HARRY HODGES,
General Secretary.

We have nearly two million men in France. Every subscriber to the Liberty Loans helped to send them there.

Our Churches and Institutions

In Some of Our Large Cities

NEW YORK

—The board of directors of Wagner College, which will remove from Rochester to Staten Island, has elected the following officers: Rev. F. Sutter, president; Rev. H. Wasmund, vice-president; Rev. Theo. Posselt, secretary; Mr. M. Wulff, treasurer. Wagner College will open on September 18.

—Treasurer E. F. Eilert, of the National War Commission for Soldiers' and Sailors' Welfare, has published a very comprehensive financial report of the campaign. It was compiled by Rev. George L. Kiefer, the financial secretary of the commission. The actual cash receipts up to September 1 were $1,175,755.38, with a balance due of $193,044.10.

—Private Francis Savona, connected with the Ordnance Corps, writes most interestingly to his local paper, Merrick, L. I., concerning the work at Camp Hancock, Georgia. He also expresses himself in appreciative terms of the Lutheran War Commission and the interest and activity of our Lutheran Church. Mr. Savona is an Italian by birth but a naturalized American. Originally he was a Roman Catholic, but of his own accord, through the preaching of Rev. W. H. Steinbicker, our field missionary, sought confirmation in St. John's Lutheran Church, Merrick, L. I. He therefore became a Lutheran through conviction.

BALTIMORE

—Rev. F. P. Henninghausen, D.D., pastor emeritus of St. Stephen's Church, who retired from the active ministry about a year ago, occasionally preaches in his former pulpit and recently administered the Lord's Supper. He served St. Stephen's for nearly fifty-three years.

—Prof. H. H. Sipes, of our India Mission, is at the present time engaged in a missionary tour of the churches of Nova Scotia.

WASHINGTON

—Rev. Dr. John P. Krechting, a retired Lutheran minister, eighty-two years of age, died in Washington, D. C., July 11.

—Rev. J. S. Simon, D. D., of Hagerstown, Md., has been called as pastor of the First Church, Mansfield, Ohio.

PITTSBURGH

—The Pittsburgh Inner Mission Society, Rev. A. Hering, superintendent, completed a city-wide membership campangn which brought 697 new members, $1,619 in cash and 305 new subscribers to the Inner Mission paper. During the past month the Hospice sheltered twenty-two resident and twenty-six transient guests.

ERIE, PA.

—Rev. George H. Schnur was installed as pastor of Grace Church, Sunday, June 23.

—Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, Pa., has issued its annual bulletin and alumni directory. From the summary of this directory it would appear that there are at present 1,508 living graduates, and 523 graduates who are deceased. The names of 1,021 former students are given with the addresses of 712. The number of former students not graduated is 650, making a total of 1,671. This number added to the graduates makes a total of 3,702 former students and graduates who are listed.

—Rev. Dr. W. K. Frick died at his home in Milwaukee, Wis., August 20. Dr. Frick was the efficient English secretary of the General Council.

—Prof. C. O. Solberg, who has been head of the English department of St. Olaf College since 1917, has resigned to become president of the English Conference of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

—Mr. M. R. Adams, principal of the preparatory department of Roanoke College, has been called to the colors. Mr. D. B. Welsh, A.M., who had formerly filled the same position and retired from it for graduate work at Princeton University, has been secured for this work.

—Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, of Omaha, Neb., published an extended article in the *Nebraska State Journal*, in which he emphasizes the cosmopolitan character of the Lutheran Church and its truly American spirit.

—

PULLMAN SUPERCHARGES EXPLAINED

The supercharge for transportation in Pullmans has been imposed in the hope that it will reduce the demand for Pullman accommodations and free the sleeping cars for the use of our troops on night journeys, and it is frankly stated that the order which makes one and one-half tickets necessary for the sole occupancy of a section and two tickets requisite for the exclusive occupancy of a compartment has been issued to "discourage the well-to-do or extravagant from using more Pullman space than they really require, thereby excluding the thrifty or less prosperous portion of the public from the use of the Pullman space unnecessarily pre-empted."

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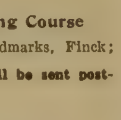

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Luther League

SEND IN THE NEWS—Under this heading we aim to give the fullest reports possible of all District and Local Leagues. Secretaries and other officers are earnestly solicited to send in reports and items of news promptly.

Luther League of America

Organized at Pittsburgh, Pa., October 30 and 31, 1895, by delegates representing State, District and individual organizations from twenty different States in the Union and District of Columbia.

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CENTRAL NEW YORK DISTRICT

—The regular quarterly meeting of the District Luther League of Central New York was held in Oswego, N. Y., at St. Matthew's Church on July 18.

A paper on "The Christian Church and the World Government" was read by Rev. J. Paetznick, pastor, of Syracuse. The regular business followed.

An item of special interest was the adoption of resolutions relating to an 18 cent per capita tax, which should cover the entire expense of the district as well as paying the 13 cents per capita due the State and National Leagues.

Mrs. Graves, Miss Stumphaus and Miss A. Perau were elected delegates to the convention of the Luther League of America at Buffalo.

Rev. Ostoff, the newly elected pastor of St. Paul's, Oswego, gave a few words of greeting after which all present enjoyed the hospitality of St. Matthew's League.

BUFFALO

—Resurrection Luther League leads with a campaign for 100 new members for the Inner Mission. Concordia Luther League has followed suit and now has a drive on for fifty new members. Resurrection Men's Society has come across with a contribution of $5 down and $1 a month. Redeemer Luther League furnishes almost every volunteer office worker. Mrs. W. J. Thompson is our star investigator and district worker. The Misses Breitwieser and Trost are our three willing helpers at the Erie County Home services. Miss Springborn is our "old reliable" at the Erie County Jail services (with apologies to Miss Springborn for the designation "old"), Mr. Martzloff is the sweet singer for our White Light Mission work. Miss Gertrude Hillman is always ready to fill a gap in the ranks of pianists.

CLEVELAND

—The City Luther League held its summer meeting at the First Church, July 30. On this occasion the address was delivered by Rev Becker. The members of the First Church had charge of open air services in Wade Park on a recent Sunday.

WEST VIRGINIA

—The Luther League of St. John's Church, Parkersburg, Rev. J. L. Fischer, pastor, is sending monthly letters to each member of the congregation in service. Each boy leaving for the training camps is presented by the Woman's Society with all the literature published by the National Lutheran Commission for the use of the boys in service and *The Lutheran* and *Young Folks* are sent weekly to each man.

KANSAS

—The C. E. Society of St. James' Church, Perth, has disbanded and a Luther League has been organized.

CALIFORNIA

—The Luther League of our church at San Diego, Rev. Schueler, pastor, has instituted an "Over the Top for Christ and the Church" contest, conducted along military lines.

—The Oregon-Washington Luther League met in Chehalis and Centralia, Wash., August 10 to 12. The meeting in Chehalis was in St. John's Church and in Centralia the convention met in Emmanuel Church.

The convention was intensely interesting from the beginning to the end. Not the least factor in its success was Rev. C. F. Knoll, former pastor at Chehalis, but now a chaplain at the Vancouver Barracks. Rev. Knoll kindly assumed charge of affairs, since the Chehalis pulpit is empty, and the inspiration of his powerful personality will help every one who attended the convention to do more for his church and his country than ever before.

The papers were instructive; the addresses were splendid, and the music added the finishing touch. We hope that every convention of Lutheran young people this year will be as satisfactory.

The social sessions were under the auspices of the Luther League of St. John's Lutheran Church, of Chehalis, Wash., in conjunction with entertainment of the eighteenth annual convention of the Columbia Central Luther League. The officers are: W. S. T. Derr, president; Miss Elsa Weissmiller, secretary, and Miss Esther Larson, treasurer.

SCHOOLS FOR WOMEN TICKET SELLERS

To meet the demand for ticket sellers made necessary by the conscription of the younger men formerly employed in this capacity, women are being trained in the schools that have been established for that purpose in several of the larger cities. When the women so trained become proficient in the work they will be assigned to the more important ticket offices of the country, where they will receive the same wages that are paid men for similar services.

KANSAS VOLUNTARILY RETURNS FLOUR

Reports from forty-one counties in Kansas show that 1,284,620 pounds of flour have been voluntarily returned to channels of trade, as a result of the call for a return of all but a thirty-day supply. The Kansas administration announces that so far it has not been necessary to requisition any flour in that state.

Jackson County took the banner with a return of 148,500 pounds of flour. McPherson County returned 131,000 pounds, and the German communities therein made especially good records.

It's better to pay in voluntary gifts to Church institutions than in involuntary tax to State institutions.

The best is none too good for our Lutheran students, but who will pay the bills?

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Luther League Topics 1918-1919

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THE *Luther League Topics* has stood in its own unique field for twenty-four years. It was the pioneer publication of its kind in America. And in our own Church its circulation has gone beyond the organization of the Luther League of America. It is a source of gratification to us that our Topics quarterly is being used in some branches of our Church whose young peoples' societies are not in connection with the League and that thus the influence and teachings of the Luther League is ever broadening and becoming more effective.

Our more than two decades of experience in this work have convinced us that in the weekly meeting for the study of the Topics is found the central motive force of the whole movement; or, in other words, the heart and core of the whole Luther League movement is the *Luther League Topics*. Through these Topics we are training Lutheran Christians; hence every topic development must be soundly and distinctly Lutheran. We want our Luther Leaguers never to be ashamed of that which is positively Lutheran in our Church, be it the teaching of her doctrines, the story of her past, or the study of her ever widening work of the present.

First Quarter

ADVENT, 1918.

I. Dec. 1. Historical. *Luther: The Professor, Preacher and Pastor.* Micah 6:4-8.
II. Dec. 8. Missionary. *Am I Suited to the Lutheran Ministry?* Matt. 20:25-28.
III. Dec. 15. Biblical. *God's Justice Condemns Man.* Rom. 3:9-24.
IV. Dec. 22. Biblical. *God's Love Sends Man a Saviour.* I John 4:7-10.
V. Dec. 29. Biblical. *Idleness a Curse.* Prov. 6:6-11.

EPIPHANY, 1919.

New Year, Jan. 5. Practical. *The Family Altar.* Gen. 18:17-21.
I. Jan. 12. Missionary—Foreign. *Foreign Missions Need College-Bred Workers.* II Tim. 2:6-25.
II. Jan. 19. Missionary—Home. *The Young People's Part in Gathering the New Congregation.* Psa. 71:17; 148:12, 13.
III. Jan. 26. Missionary—Inner. *The Hospice: What? Why? Where?* Luke 14:12-14.
IV. Feb. 2. Missionary—Benevolence. *Giving: What Is the True Standard? Do We Reach It?* II Cor. 9:6-7.
V. Feb. 9. Missionary—Church Extension. *The Value of the Church Building to a Mission.* Deut. 31:11-13.
Septuagesima. Feb. 16. Historical. *Philip Melanchthon.* (Born Feb. 16, 1497. 422nd Anniversary.) Acts 5:34; 22:3.
Sexagesima. Feb. 28. Biblical. *The Love That Meets All Demands and Includes All Men.* Rom. 11:25-32.
Quinquagesima. Mar. 2. Historical. *The Development of Luther's Religious Life. Is Yours Developing?* II Pet. 1:5-9.

Second Quarter

LENT, 1919.

General Theme: *The Passion of Christ.*
I. Mar. 9. Invocavit. *Its Divine Necessity.* Matt. 16:21-26.
II. Mar. 16. Reminiscere. *The Great Object in View.* Luke 10:17-20.
III. Mar. 23. Oculi. *The Spirit That Moved Him.* Luke 9:51-56.
IV. Mar. 30. Laetare. *Our Participation in Its Fruits.* John 6:47-57.
V. April 6. Judica. *The Son of Man Glorified.* John 13:31-35.
VI. April 13. Palm Sunday. *The Climax on Golgotha.* Luke 23:39-46.

EASTERTIDE, 1919.

Easter, April 20. Biblical. *Significance of the Resurrection.* I Cor. 15:50-58.
I. April 27. Historical. *The Protest at Speyer.* (April 19, 1529. 390th Anniversary.) Rom. 10:1-13.
II. May 4. Biblical. *Salvation. A Gift of God's Grace.* Eph. 2:1-10.
III. May 11. Missionary. *What Our Church Did for Foreign Missions Last Year.* Acts 5:14; 9:35, 42.
IV. May 18. Biblical. *The Christian's Holy Life.* Eph. 4:14-32.
V. May 25. Historical. *Martyrs of Church and State.* (Sunday before Memorial Day.) Matt. 10:21-22.

Third Quarter

PENTECOST AND TRINITY, 1919.

Exaudi. June 1. Biblical. *At the Right Hand of the Father.* John 1:1-3; I Pet. 3:22.
Pentecost. June 8. Biblical. *The Spirit's Work and the Means.* John 15:26; 16:13.
Trinity. June 15. Biblical. *God: Who and What He Is.* John 4:19-26.
I. June 22. Missionary. *Lutheran Work in British Guiana and Other South American Countries.* Jer. 16:19-21.
II. June 29. Educational. *Where Shall I Go to College?* Deut. 31:10-13.
III. July 6. Patriotic. *Protestantism and Democracy.* (Independence Day.) Acts 22:25-29.
IV. July 12. Historical. *The Church Defended.* (Luther at Leipzig, July 4-13, 1519. 400th Anniversary.) Isa. 31:4-5.
V. July 20. Practical. *True Prayer.* I Cor. 14:14, 15.
VI. July 27. Benevolence. *Giving: The Old and the New Way.* II Cor. 9:6, 7.
VII. Aug. 3. Practical. *The Growth of the Lutheran Church.* Mark 4:26-29.
VIII. Aug. 10. Practical. *Character.* Prov. 22:1.
IX. Aug. 11. Practical. *What Is in Thine Hand?* Ex. 4:1-5.
X. Aug. 24. Practical. *How to Increase Church Attendance.* Psa. 84:1-10.
XI. Aug. 31. Sociological. *The Church and Social Betterment.* (Sunday before Labor Day.) Jas. 4:13-17.

Fourth Quarter

XII. Sept. 7. Biblical. *Religion and Morality.* Jas. 2:17; Matt. 7:26-27.
XIII. Sept. 14. Missionary—Inner. *"The Lazarus" at Your Gate.* Deut. 15:7-18.
XIV. Sept. 21. Biblical. *Love to God.* Matt. 22:37-39.
XV. Sept. 28. Historical. *Luther and Zwingli.* (Marburg, Oct. 2-4, 1529. 390th Anniversary.) I Cor. 11:23-26.
XVI. Oct. 5. Biblical. *Humility.* Luke 7:6, 7.
XVII. Oct. 12. Missionary—Home. *Gathering the Scattered Sheep.* I Pet. 2:21-25.
XVIII. Oct. 19. Biblical. *The Judge of All the Earth.* Matt. 25:31-46.
XIX. Oct. 26. Sociological. *Some Aspects of the Reformation.* Luke 16:10-13.
Reformation Sunday. Nov. 2. Historical. *The Reformation in Iceland* (Nov. 1, 1530, 389th Anniversary) *and Finland* (1528). Rom. 3:22-28.
XXI. Nov. 9. Missionary. *An Opportunity.* Esther 4:13-17.
XXII. Nov. 16. Biblical. *Your Eternal Destiny: What Shall It Be?* Matt. 25:31-46.
XXIII. Nov. 23. Biblical. *Thankfulness.* (Thanksgiving Day.) Ps. 68:19, 20.

Luther League Topics

Twenty-third Sunday
after Trinity. November 3, 1918.

A UNITED LUTHERANISM
(Historical)

John 17:20-26.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday—Morning: I Cor. 3:1-23; Evening, Joel 3:1-13.
Tuesday—Morning: Matt. 19:16-30; Evening: Joel 3:14-21.
Wednesday—Morning: Luke 14:12-15; Evening: Obad. 1:21.
Thursday—Morning: Mark 13:1-37; Evening: Nah. 1:1-14.
Friday—Morning: Rom. 9:1-33; Evening: Nah. 1:15, 3:19.
Saturday—Morning: Rom. 10:1-21; Evening: Isa. 10:5-27.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

The Church papers have had much to say in regard to the Merger. Consult the Church papers for the last six months for information. Refer to minutes of the General Synod, General Council, and the United Synod in the South, and also the minutes of your District Synod. Information is plentiful.

Lesson - Meditation.— Christ's farewell prayer was very remarkable. Jesus prayed that the Father would glorify Him. He also asked that His apostles might be preserved in unity and in truth. By this prayer He sought to glorify them and all of the believers with Him in Heaven.

The unity of the believers in Christ was the burden of Christ's prayer that concerns us. Are we realizing it?

Discussion.—Four hundred and twenty delegates from twenty States in October, 1895, in the First Lutheran Church of Pittsburgh, met and organized the Luther League of America. Any Young People's Society of whatever name connected with a Lutheran church or Lutheran institution was entitled to membership in the convention. This principle has been adhered to throughout the history of the Luther League, which is a non-synodical body.

A unique feature of the convention at Pittsburgh in 1895 and one long to be remembered, was the question involving the standing of the delegates toward the Augsburg Confession. When Dr. Moldenke, President of the General Council, arose in the middle aisle of the church, and addressing the chair, said that before participating in the meeting he wished to know where those present stood, and their attitude relative to the Augsburg Confession, Dr. H. L. Baugher, President of the General Synod, immediately arose and stated that while he had no doubt regarding the attitude of the convention, he agreed with the President of the General Council, Dr. Moldenke, in the desirability of knowing the position of the delegates on so important a question. Mr. E. F. Eilert, Chairman of the Convention, immediately put the question, asking that all present who subscribed to the Augsburg Confession, arise. Instantly the entire convention as one man rose and stood in evidence of their adherence to the great confession of their Church. It was a thrilling and impressive moment, witnessing to the unity of the faith in the body of the membership of the Church. Standing out in the aisle of the church were the presidents of the three great bodies to merge in the month of November, namely, Rev. Dr. Moldenke, President of the General Council; Dr. Baugher, President of the General Synod; and Dr. Smith, President of United Synod in the South. Those fortunate enough to witness the scene never will forget this great object lesson of Lutheran unity and co-operation.

In the spirit of this incident the convention adopted the following:

"We acknowledge as the bond of our union the word of God as the only infallible rule of faith and practice, and the unaltered Augsburg Confession as the correct exponent of that Word." This has been the landmark of the Luther League throughout its history that has contributed so much to Lutheran co-operation and harmony.

For over a quarter of a century, the Luther League of America has hoped and prayed for a united Lutheranism in America. And now as a monument to the great Quadricentennial of Luther's restoration of evangelical Christianity, the great English speaking bodies are to unite in one organization.

The prayer of Christ is being answered as far as affects the Lutheran Church. First came the union of the Norwegian Synods in 1917, and now the General Synod, the General Council, and the United Synod in the South, are to merge into one great Lutheran body of a million Christians.

The Merger meeting is to be held in New York City.

The following are the arrangements so far as can be announced at this writing: The General Synod will meet in St. James' Church; the General Council in Holy Trinity, and the United Synod in the South in Advent Lutheran Churches, on November 12-14.

On Thursday evening, November 14, the joint Communion Service for all the delegates of the three General Bodies entering the Merger will be held in Holy Trinity Church.

The Luther League Topics, complete lessons (of which the above are outlines and review) in 32-page pamphlet covering three months can be supplied at rates given on page 30 by LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, 318-326 West 39th Street, New York City.

On November 15 and 16, the business sessions of the United Synod, the Merged Body will be held in the Auditorium of the United Engineering Society Building, 223-225 West Thirty-ninth street, New York.

The great public meeting of the Lutheran Church in America will be held on November 15, in the large auditorium of the Hotel Astor. It will be an inspiring meeting for Lutherans, and its influence will be potential for the future.

Joint community meetings will be held on Sunday in Brooklyn, in the Academy of Music; in the Bronx, in the McKinley Square Casino, and in Manhattan, probably in the Hippodrome.

This would be a practical application of our lesson. A great need of our Lutheran Church will have been met. As Luther Leaguers we rejoice in this consummation and look with gratitude upon its promised helpfulness. In the spirit of the apostles we can say, "So then as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good towards all men, and especially towards them that are of the household of faith." The benediction of the great convention uniting the forces of the Lutheran Church will not be completed until at some future date as one, all Lutherans in America shall unite in presenting a solid front of the millions of our faithful people to the American public in the cause of Christ as the American Lutheran Church.

Twenty-fourth Sunday
after Trinity. November 10, 1918.

LUTHER AT HOME

(Birthday, November 10, 1483, 435th Anniversary—Historical)

I Tim. 3:4, 5.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday—Morning, Rom. 11:1-23; evening, Isa. 13:1-22.

Tuesday—Morning, II Thess. 1:11, 2:17; evening, Isa. 14:1-27.

Wednesday—Morning, II Thess. 3:1-18; evening, Isa. 47:1-15.

Thursday—Morning, II Tim. 3:1-17; evening, Dan. 2:27-45.

Friday—Morning, II Tim. 4:1-22; evening, Dan. 7:1-28.

Saturday—Morning, Matt. 24:1-14; evening, Dan. 9:1-27.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Hymn. Psalm 1 (read responsively). Gloria Patri.

Prayer by the president. Scripture lesson, I Tim. 3:4-5 (read by the leader). Hymn.

Oral review of the Luther League Topic in the REVIEW and *Topics*, by a member of the Luther League.

Solo, "My Faith in Thee," by Wells.

Résumé of Luther's Family Life (Part VI, "History of the Reformation," Darmstaetter).

Remarks by the pastor.

Offering. Offertory. Announcements.

Hymn. Closing service, Lord's Prayer chanted, and Benediction.

Hymns suggested: 193, 185, 166, 43, 44.

(Topic reviewed by Rev. William A. Lambert.)

To us it seems quite proper that a preacher should be married, have a home, wife and children. But when Luther was a boy peopde thought a "religious" man could not live as other men; he must not marry, and he must live in a monastery.

Luther's father was not convinced that his son could not be just as good and useful a man if he became a lawyer and married. He suggested that Luther's becoming a monk might be due to a deception of the devil.

How much in Luther's development is due to his father's unconscious influence and to Frau Cotta's home life and her saying that the love of a good woman is a precious thing, we cannot trace. But when Luther became convinced that being "religious" did not mean to do without home and family, he not only encouraged others to marry, but himself finally married.

His wife Luther calls his "Lord Katie," because in household affairs she had taken full charge, that he might devote himself to his many duties. But he also says that he needs to be patient with her, as with all men, so that his whole life is patience. Sometimes he laughed at her because she knew so little of the world's affairs. Once she asked him why they no longer prayed as diligently as they had under the papacy.

As the home became for Luther a school of the virtues, so it also was a school for the training of children. He was afraid to tease his son as much as his daughter, for fear that he might spoil him. At one time he would not speak to his son for three days, although his wife and friends pleaded with him. He would rather, as he said, have his son dead than that the boy should disgrace him and the cause for which he stood. What good would it do if when his boy had done wrong he should merely mention it at table and not whip the boy? He himself had been beaten for small offences, and did not want any one to punish children too severely.

In his home life Luther was a man among men, with the weaknesses of other men. But he showed the world that a man could be "religious" in his family, and that home life has its part in the training of the religious man.

Literature—Lives of Luther, e. g. Preserved Smith, "The Life and Letters of Martin Luther." Schaff, Church History, Vol. VI, Sec. 78, "Luther's Home Life," pp. 460-473.

Bible References.

Prov. 25:17, 27:8; Titus 2:4, 5; Joshua 24:15; John 11:1-5; Acts 10:2, 33; Deut. 14:26; Matt. 18:21, 22.

Twenty-fifth Sunday
after Trinity. November 17, 1918.

YOUR CONGREGATION'S MISSION TO ITS NEIGHBORS

(Missionary)

I Cor. 16:8-10.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday—Morning, Matt. 24:29-51; evening, Dan. 11:36, 12:13.

Tuesday—Morning, Matt. 22:23-33; evening, Ezek. 38:1-23.
Wednesday—Morning, I Cor. 15:11-50; evening, Ezek 39:1-29.
Thursday—Morning, Heb. 3:7, 4:13; evening, Isa. 43:14-25.
Friday—Morning, Heb. 11:8-16; evening, Isa. 33:17-24.
Saturday—Morning, Heb. 12:18-29; evening, Ezek. 37:1-14.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Use the opening and closing service given in the *Luther League Topics* leaflet.

Arrange for some special music.

Have a chart of the neighborhood in which your church is located. Show the schools and public buildings and street car lines. Give population and show from the map what your church has done and what it might do in its own vicinity. Make the meeting educational and also plan for an aggressive campaign for your church in the neighborhood.

Recitation—

The shades of night were falling fast,
When through a leader's mind there passed
This thought—to-night's my time to lead.
I'll worry not, I'll simply read
THE REVIEW.

The president is always there,
So I'll ask her to offer prayer
And for the main address, I'll try
The one on whom I e'er rely—
The pastor.

If pauses do my mind appall.
For impromptu remarks I'll call.
And then I never fail to heed
That panacea for a sore need—
The hymnal.

Somehow I do not seem to care
If to the meeting I repair;
The topic is so dry and tame,
Of course I know just whom to blame—
The editor.

(Topic reviewed by Rev. Charles S. Bream, Middlebury, Ind., President South Bend District League.)

In discussing this subject we must keep in mind two distinct conceptions of what is meant by "neighbor." It is a difficult thing to rid ourselves of the conception of our neighbors as those who reside in the same community. They are are our neighbors in a special sense, simply because we have more ready access to them and they to us. It takes more patience and charity, too, to be a real neighbor to those who reside in our own community, because their faults are so much more apparent than are those to whom "distance lends enchantment." But that this should be our only understanding of the term "neighbor" is not permissible among Christian people. Christ forbade that once for all in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Therefore, in studying this topic we will consider our neighbor from two viewpoints—geography and Christianity.

I. GEOGRAPHICAL NEIGHBORS.

These are the neighbors right around us. They are the people who live in our community. The iceman, the milkman, the clerks in the stores, the janitor in the school buildings, and in a word, all with whom we come in contact or who are within easy access. Your church's duty to them is first:

(a) *Example.* The Lutheran Church has a history of four hundred years of steady, conservative growth. Your congregation need not be afraid to remain true to this history and be an example to those in the same community. Infant baptism, the catechism class, the true meaning of the Lord's Supper, these are positions for which the Lutheran Church is often criticised. But with unswerving devotion she must continue the mission of her example.

To the neighbors who as individuals are not professing Christians your church as individuals owes the example of right living. Attendance upon divine worship in the morning and beer-drinking and Sabbath desecration in the afternoon are poor examples to set and turn many away from the church.

(b) *Sympathy.* Your church owes to its neighbors a manifestation of sympathy. It matters not how great the difference of belief or of practice may be, it should always be remembered that Christ told His disciples not to forbid those who cast out devils, but not in the same manner as they. So our prayers and our sympathy should go out to the neighbors worshipping in the same town. And to those who are still unsaved there should be shown a genuine desire to see them safely within the family of God.

(c) *Co-operation.* While there are some practices among other churches that we cannot conscientiously participate in, yet it must ever be borne in mind that "a house divided against itself shall fall." In Constantine, Michigan, I heard the church bells ring one Lord's Day morning. First one church bell rang three strokes; then another bell three strokes, and then another and so on until all had rung. Then another time they did the same thing, and then all rang out in unison. What a beautiful way to proclaim to the world that the Christian forces of the city were united! Union Thanksgiving services, union twilight services in a city park, these are means of co-operating which have a wholesome effect.

II. CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS.

When Jesus commissioned His disciples He said, "Go ye into all the world." That is one of the most thrilling commands in God's Word. The greatness of the field! The boundless confidence Christ placed in His disciples! Your congregation has more to do than to pay its pastor, to pay the coal bills and then just barely meet the synodical apportionment. "Go ye into all the world!" That is a command to *you.*

Some congregations have set the pace with this motto: "As much for others as for ourselves." How truly Christian! In a few congregations within the writer's knowledge, the amount given for others exceeds that spent upon the local budget. In

other congregations there are men who ride in luxurious six-cylinder machines and give thirty-seven cents per year for foreign missions! "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the Kingdom of God."

Bibliography—"Religious Rheumatism," by Rev. J. B. Baker, Gettysburg, Pa.

Bible References.

John 14:27, 16:33; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 6:15, 2:15; Rev. 1:4; II Tim. 1:2; Phil. 4:7; II John 3; John 12:46; Mal. 4:2; John 1:9.

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Trinity. November 24, 1918.

DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF THE BODY

Jno. 5:24-29.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday—Morning, I Pet. 1:1-12; evening, Zeph. 3:9-20.

Tuesday—Morning, I Pet. 1:13, 2:10; evening, Isa. 34:1-17.

Wednesday—Morning, I Pet. 4:1-7; evening, Isa. 35:1-10.

Thursday—Morning, I Pet. 4:12-19; evening, Isa. 54:1-17.

Friday—Morning, II Pet. 1:1-15; evening, Isa. 60:7-22.

Saturday—Morning, II Pet. 2:1-22; evening, Isa. 62:1-12.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Plan the meeting well and see that no one reads "their bit" at this meeting. Have material in their hands early that they may have time to consider topic.

Hymn. Prayer by president of the League.

Scripture, John 5:24-29.

Introductory remarks by the leader on the lesson.

Vocal solo.

Several days before the meeting assign to some of the members the various sub-divisions of the subject of the lesson as outlined in the Topic Book and REVIEW.

Summary of the remarks by the pastor.

Mispah Benediction.

(Topic reviewed by Rev. George H. Hillerman, D. D.)

I. MAN'S CONCEPTION OF DEATH.

1. *The Heathen Philosophy.* The subject of death has ever been one of the most unwelcome topics for human thought, and apart from the revelations of the Word of God it is doubly so. For the heathen it was a necessary debt of nature that no man could avoid, and which ended all existence for him. Man must go through it, and if his lot in life has been hard, death offers a sure release; and if his lot has been pleasant, he must simply make the best of it. There was no hope, only despair; no joy, only sorrow; as they looked at death. Two Korean women were watching a funeral procession on its way to the mission cemetery. "What sight is this?" asked one. The other answered, "They are burying the missionary's son." "That is very, very sad," replied the first, for in Korea the son is the most priceless of possessions. "It is not so bad for them as for us," said the other sadly; "they know something that makes them sure that they will get their children back some day. We know nothing about how to get ours back again." And this was heathendom's constant note of despair.

2. *The Jewish Knowledge.* With the Jew the hope was brighter, but still the pall hangs heavy over the grave. They have intimations of a future life, but even these carry the gloom. For the Jew death was a going down, a cutting off of the flower, a permanent departure, the act of the King of Terrors, the return to the dust where the dead praise not. Gen. 15:15; Job 14:2, 16:22, 18:14; Ps. 104:29, 115:17, etc.

3. *The Christian Faith.* For the Christian death has been conquered by Christ, and even men outside the Church have tried to borrow hope from the words of divine revelation. For the Christian death is neither the wages of sin, nor the payment of nature's debt, for Christ has satisfied all the demands against him. By the Saviour's passage thru death, it has been transformed for the Christian into the beginning of joy, of rest, of life, of home, and of eternal happiness. He triumphantly looks death in the face and shouts, "Where is thy sting?" For him death is gain, for it takes him to be with Christ, to a home in heaven, where, clothed upon with immortality, he can unite in the praise of the redeemed. And even the dead in the Lord shall return with Him, at His coming again. I Cor. 15:55; Phil. 1:21, 23; II Cor. 5:1, 4; Rev. 5:9, 10; I Thess. 4:14.

The Christian's hope is justified by three lines of reliable evidence: (1) The joyous and fearless meeting of death by those who held this hope. (Note Stephen, Paul, the martyrs, and countless others.) (2) God's Word is pledged to the resurrection of the dead, and to the death of death itself. (3) Christ died and rose again, becoming the first fruits of them that are asleep.

II. THE RESURRECTION.

In the dissolution of the body and spirit in death, the New Testament is plain in the teaching that the spirit departs in consciousness to be with Christ; and that the body alone is asleep in the ground; and that the resurrection is of the body, fitting it for an eternal reunion with the spirit. In this resurrection the mortal becomes immortal (I Cor. 15:35-54), and the body of humiliation of the believer becomes like Christ's own glorious body. These are raised out from the midst of the dead at the First Resurrection, while the rest of the dead, the wicked, who spurned the offer of grace, are raised to enter into the condemnation that rests on sin.

Bibliography.—A good Biblical Theology of the New Testament; Schmid's Lutheran Dogmatics; Seiss's Lectures on the Apocalypse; Meyer's Shepherd Psalm.

Bible References.

Luke 24:21; Matt. 27:63, 64, 66; Luke 24:15-31; John 20:19; I Cor. 15:41-45; Phil. 3:21; Acts 2:22-24; I Cor. 15:55-57; I Thess. 4:13, 14; Jno. 5:28, 29; II Tim. 1:10.

Intermediate and Junior Topics

NOVEMBER 3.

"The Confessional Service."

By Rev. M. Luther Canup.

Scripture Lesson—I Cor. 11:28, 29.

General Truth—Paul says, let a man "examine himself" and then let him "eat of that bread, and drink of that cup." Why an examination before coming to the Table of the Lord? Because the Lord's Supper declares forgiveness to the Christian who realizes his sin and wants to get rid of it. Somehow, deep heart searching and true repentance go before the Holy Communion. To get God's Grace out of the broken body and shed blood of Christ, we must first get sin out of our lives. God's great Grace wants to pour into the sacred chambers of our hearts, once occupied by satan. Will we let it?

Point of Contact—Every thoughtful boy or girl goes to the dinner table with clean hands and face. He would feel out of place if they were dirty. Thoughtless boys and girls are sometimes sent away from the table until they wash their hands and face. How happy we are and how good food tastes when we are all washed and ready and sitting down to a big dinner. Why? Because we have examined our hands and face and even our hair and are fit to sit at the table in company with others. Just as we wash our bodies in order to sit at our own table, so Christ wants us to wash our souls before sitting at His Table. This is what the Confessional Service is for. Boys and girls and men and women make themselves ready for the blessed Supper of our Lord. Dirt, oil and grease are sometimes hard to get off of the hands and face. But we rub and scrub and soap until they come off. We dare not sit down to the meal until they are clean. Our souls become very dirty working in this sinful world. There are some awfully ugly spots on them and they are hard to wash out. If mother gives us the warm water, the soap and towel we can usually do the rest. So in cleansing our hearts, if God gives us His Word, faith in Christ, His Holy Spirit, all of which help to wash the spots out of our sinful lives, surely we can attend the confessional or preparatory service and wash them. Let us treat the Lord's table with the same respect as we do our own at home. Let a man "examine himself" and then let him "eat of that bread, and drink of that cup."

Lesson Developed—Who should examine himself? In verse 27 we are told that "whosoever" shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, etc. Whosoever means any Christian who desires to come to the Lord's Supper. Let a man examine "himself." This calls for personal examination. This examination is not intended to exclude any one from the Sacrament. It does not say: let a man examine himself and stay away; but let a man examine himself and so let him eat. It is intended not to decrease the attendance but to increase it at the Holy Communion. No devout seeker of God's Grace should rest satisfied until he has attended either a public or private confessional service and heard God's Word in the mouth of His servant, the pastor, declare to him full forgiveness in Christ Name before every administration. We are getting too far away from the historical practice of our Church in this respect.

Why should we examine ourselves? In order that we may obtain the blessing promised to a penitent Christian and avoid the curse of eating and drinking unworthily. The promise is, "blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." We need to take a religious inventory. A glance backward is often helpful in taking a step forward.

How shall we examine ourselves? Not all of the examination should take place in the church at the preparatory service. It is not enough to make that the only confessional service. Real heart searching is often done while we are alone. The entire season just previous to Holy Communion should be one of confession. Listen to the blind man near Jericho saying: "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me," or to the Prodigal son saying: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee," or to the publican in the temple: "God be merciful to me a sinner," if you wish to truly understand confession. To such God declares the absolute forgiveness of all sins.

Hints—Let the leader give out ten questions and have ten boys or girls to answer them.

NOVEMBER 10.

"Luther at Home."

By Rev. M. Luther Canup.

Scripture Lesson—I Tim. 3:4, 5.

General Truth—Paul here draws a beautiful picture of a Christian home: "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection." He sets clear the relationship between parents and children. The home was God's first institution and Paul is here endeavoring to keep it first. While the home here mentioned is that of a pastor, the parsonage, yet it applies to all Christian homes. Look at the completeness of this home. There are parents, there are children and there is order or obedience. Such a home is bound to be happy.

Point of Contact—We all live in homes. We all know what they are. There are homes and homes. Some are rich and some poor; some are large and some small; some have big families living in them and some small; some of these families are educated and some are illiterate. But these are all homes. God created a home before He created churches and schools and gave laws, etc. One of the first acts of God in creation was to make a home in which there were a father and mother and children. God made homes first and they must always be first. Without homes we can have nothing. All else rests upon homes. Our Sunday schools, our churches, our day schools, our business, our laws, our everything, depends upon our homes. If the home governs everything, we must govern the home. Paul writes Timothy that it must be ruled well and that boys and girls must be in subjection to their parents. This is a new gospel nowadays. Parents don't know how to rule their own house and children don't know how to honor their parents, the first commandment of promise. Children belong to their parents, not the parents to the children. Keep Paul's picture before you, a home, loving parents and children in the home and loving obedience there.

Lesson Developed—Luther believed in the home. He believed a minister should be allowed to marry and have his home just like the members of his parish. Luther not only had his home but was most happy in it. It was in his

home that he taught the world some of its most precious truths. He preached and lived the Gospel in his home. The world owes Luther an awful lot for restoring Protestant parsonages and for enriching home life as he did. Luther knew how to rule his house and his children knew how to obey him. The Christian Church often points to his home as an example. The father did not rule with an iron rod yet he was the ruler. His children did not fear him like slaves, they loved him. They ate together, they walked together, thy played together, they sang together and they prayed together. What a happy home that must have been.

Luther was fond of his children. Your parents are fond of you. They may have beautiful pictures on the walls and costly furniture in the home but you are their chief pride. They may lose everything else but they will cling to you. They will stay up all night for weeks if you get sick, they work hard to get you food and clothes. They want to keep the home and children together. They love to do it and seldom complain.

What are we boys and girls doing for the home? About the time we become fourteen we sometimes run away from home. The Bible says there was a boy once who ran away from home but afterward regretted it and went straight back and never again left it. He made a mistake. But he corrected his mistake. Boys and girls should live in their homes, not on the streets. Parents are God-given, so are homes. Some homes are so lovely and some are not. What makes the difference? Study the lives of those living there and you will find out. Most great men and women came from Christian homes. The parents ruled, they obeyed.

Hints—Have six boys or girls or three of each to write essays of 200 words each on the home. Let them read them before the League.

NOVEMBER 17.

"Your Congregation's Mission to Its Neighbors."

By Rev. M. Luther Canup.

Scripture Lesson—I Cor. 16:8-10.

General Truth—Paul writes to the Christians in Corinth, but he himself must remain in Ephesus. He is restrained to stay because of the tremendous needs. He subjects his own feelings and remains with his mission among the heathenish and superstitious. He gives his reason, "for a great door is opened unto me." He is ready to spend his life where the greatest opportunities open up to him. How many of us are like St. Paul?

Point of Contact—Just now our country is calling its young men to serve in its army and navy. Our young men are going. Duty is calling them. How many of us boys and girls are going where duty calls us? We too often consider our own personal feelings rather than consult God's wishes in the matter. Because we seek our own selfish ends we sometimes run right away from the duties which we are most fitted for and in which we can serve God best. A boy or girl may desire to study certain branches in public and high school because they are easy and good marks can be made in them. They give up and make no attempt to study those they dislike. This may be a big mistake. Those studies they most dislike or "hate" may be the very ones they should study as mind trainers or developers. If we follow only those things in life which we like we will become onesided, if we follow the easy road in life only we will not develop the best in us. It is the boy or girl who does something difficult and which everybody can't do, that distinguishes himself in life. He forgets self and remembers others. He listens to the call of duty. Paul says: "I will tarry at Ephesus for a great door is opened unto me."

Lesson Developed—What was Paul's open door? In the first place Ephesus was the capital of Ionia and was a prosperous city, having a large population. Wherever there are many people living, there doors of opportunity open up. We are our brother's keeper. At our very doors great opportunities often lie. Thousands of unsaved people live in our section of the city or throughout the country in which we live. They need us so badly. We often debate the matter of moving the church to some more favorable spot. The church is the best asset the community has. If we move the church what will become of the neighborhood? If the neighborhood has "run down" that means there is all the more need of the church. Let us get to work and "pull it up." We Christian young people need to look about us at the sick and dying, sin and immorality and we will conclude that there is an open door for us.

In the second place Paul saw an open door in the devotion of the people to idols. He knew he himself was one day an ardent persecutor of Christ. He also knew if these Ephesians had Christ instead of idols, they would be devoted to Him. He listened to the chorus shout: "Great is Diana of the Ephesians," but knew if converted they would sing: "Hosanna to the Son of David." They were a worshiping people only they were worshiping the wrong God. He saw an open door in their ardent heathenism. The terrible wicked often become the Lord's strongest when they become His.

In the last place, Paul saw an open door in the "many adversaries" at Ephesus. They called for the best he could give. He knew he had to fight and to fight hard. He was not afraid. We sometimes do our best when put to the test. Plunge into the Lord's work and overcome your weak will, your wavering faith and your sluggish passion for saving souls. Nothing will overcome them like doing something for Christ. Try it.

Hints—Give every member of the League one minute each to either point out the needs of the neighborhood or to tell some specific thing he or she had done to help to bring somebody or some family to Christ's church.

NOVEMBER 24.

Death and Resurrection of the Body.

By Rev. F. W. Friday.

St. John 5:24-29.

General Truth—Perhaps the main thought of the Scripture passage can best be presented by quoting the translation of this passage made by Moffat in his "New Testament in Modern English."

"Truly, truly I tell you, He who listens to my Word and believes Him Who sent Me has eternal life; he will incur no sentence of judgment, he has already passed from death across to life. Truly, truly I tell you, the time is coming, it has come already, when the dead will listen to the voice of the Son of God, and those who listen will live; for as the Father has life in Himself, so too He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and also granted Him authority to act as judge, since He is Son of Man. Do not wonder at this; for there is a time coming when all who are in the tombs will listen to His voice and come out, the doers of good to be raised to life, the ill-doers to be

raised for the sentence of judgment." It is very plain that only those who are the true sons of God will enjoy everlasting life with God. The "doing the will of God" means, as we know from the Words of Christ in many other places, having faith in Christ as the true and only begotten Son of God. (Lesson on Faith previously.)

Point of Contact—Every person in the world desires to live. God has made the love of life a part of every living creature. This desire in man has been carried to the highest point of development because man is the only creature with a soul—hence he is the only creature for whom Christ has died. Since we love our life, and God has made it clear from all His commands that He wants us to love our life properly (remember the commandments especially the fifth) it is but natural—or should be but natural that we want our life to continue to the end of time. God has made it possible for our lives to thus continue. According to His plan and provision not only will, or can our lives continue, but they can continue without any of the sadness or pain or disappointments which come to our lives in this world. These lives of ours can last forever with Him—and this means they shall then be perfect lives. He who loves Jesus Christ, or as the Apostle puts it, "He who is a doer of good." No one can be strictly speaking a doer of good, but since Christ did nothing but good, and since all that He did was done for us, our relation to Him by faith makes us reap what He has sown for us—eternal life.

Lesson Developed—1. We often see two animals fighting. They fight because each is trying to protect his life from the other. If these two animals happen to be dogs and one dog is yours and you know he is a good faithful dog, you feel that he deserves to win and to save his life from the other dog which is a mean, miserable cur, always attacking the good faithful dogs in the community. Or you may see a robin attacked by a cat. You want to see the robin get safe away because you realize that the robin is harmless and deserves to live. In every division of animal life, there are those which should live rather than some others. If one has to suffer you would prefer that it should be the meaner one. Apply this thought to human nature. The good deserve to live. So God has made provision for their life by giving them salvation—by saving them from death through Christ.

2. When we are baptized our new life begins. We are made to receive what God gives us of life.

3. People who are living in faith are living in that life which comes only from Christ. They are already in a state of true life. All are who love the Lord Jesus.

JUNIOR.

NOVEMBER 3.

Thankful Hearts in Many Lands.

By Miss Brenda Mehlhouse.

Scripture Lesson—Psalm 95.

The Language Spoken by Thankful Hearts.

Introduction—People in many lands have been thankful for the blessings which the Gospel has brought to them, and they have shown their thankfulness by helping others.

A Collection of Thankful Hearts—One from Africa. When David Livingstone went down into the heart of Africa he found two black men who were so grateful for the message of the Gospel which he brought them that they became his faithful followers, and aided him in all his perilous journeys.

One from China. A little Chinese girl learned of the Great Physician, and she was so thankful that she struggled and worked to learn medicine here in America so that she might take it and Christianity back to China. Today Dr. Mary Stone is in charge of a large hospital where last year she treated 24,000 cases, making people well, and telling them of the Great Physician.

One from India. Chundra Lela, a girl of India, tried everywhere to find rest and peace—she made many pilgrimages through all of India, doing every act of penance demanded by the angry gods, worshipping at every shrine, giving gifts, suffering many trials. She found no hope or peace until she learned of the only true living God, and so thankful was she for this great blessing that she determined to spend the rest of her life in telling others.

Some from Porto Rico. Many Christians in our island of Porto Rico are thankful for the beautiful new chapel which has been built for them, where they can gather to worship God—and they show their thankfulness by going out among their neighbors and bringing them, so that they, too, may be thankful for the blessings of the Gospel.

One from Japan. A little Japanese boy, Joseph Hardy Neesima, ran away from home to find out about the living God, and when he found out he was so thankful that he went back home and started a school where Japanese boys could learn about the same God.

How Can We Show Our Thanks?—The best way is to help those who do not know of Jesus.

Have discussion on ways children can show thanks. Suggest praying, working, studying, giving, going. Use the exercise in packet—"Not One Cent." Plan to have children send Thanksgiving cheer to others.

Suggestions—Invitation: Turkey cut from brown paper. "This turkey, big and fat and brown, Invites the girls and boys of all our town, To the public Thanksgiving meeting of the Juniors, on —— ——, at —— ——. Poster card with Thanksgiving pictures and pictures of people of other lands who are thankful for Gospel.

HINTS.

Assign sections from Hulbert's "Story of the Bible" to various members of the League.

2. Have essays prepared on the various accounts in the Gospels on the Resurrection of Christ.

3. Illustrate how Christ by His *Word* brings life from death, by the miracles of raising the dead recorded in the Gospels.

4. Don't attempt to go into the mysteries of eternal life. Be satisfied to have the Leaguers learn the facts; their growing faith will apply these facts to themselves and their need.

NOVEMBER 10.

Who Were the Pharisees?

By Francis C. Leupold.

We take our text from which we draw this topic from the twentieth verse of the fifth chapter of St. Matthew, and the persons around whom we especially want to draw your attention in this topic are the Pharisees, for during the studies of the Gospels you will find them frequently referred to.

The Pharisees were a sect of the Jews who thought themselves far above most of the other Jews of their day and that is where they got their names, for the word Pharisee means Separatist. They were a much celebrated religious sect among the Jews and sprang up after the return of the Jews from the captivity. They were noted for their learning of the law of that day and were given to great long prayers which they would deliver in public more as a matter of pretence than of real sincere desire to commune

ith their God. They were exact in giving thes, in fastings, and in keeping the letter of e law.

Now these Pharisees were the kind of peo- e that from their outward acts were in a easure living up to the laws of the church and untry of their day and yet we find that fre- ently Christ rebuked and severely consured em for their hypocrisy, for they were proud, rrogant and avaricious.

For other instances of this we refer you to uke 18:9-12; Matthew 23:14; Mark 12:40; atthew 23:33; Luke 11:42; Luke 18:12; atthew 23:5; Mark 7:3-8-13; Matthew 5:3; 16:6-12; 23:1-23-33; Mark 8:15; Luke 1:38 and 42; 12:1; 16:14; and 18:9.

Now let us see if we can just tell you in a w simple words what kind of people these harisees were. They were the offspring of the od devoted Jews of that day, but were so rapped up in themselves and thought them- lves so much better than everybody else that ey were called the people who has separated emselves from the hosts—the Separatists or harisees.

Now when Christ came upon earth you will call that from his very birth he was ever low- . Whether persons were of high or low birth, hether learned or poor laborers or fishermen, e loved them all and they were all treated ike by Him.

The Main Lesson—In our topic today we e how Christ plainly but emphatically states at which we must do to inherit the kingdom of eaven. Here we see plainly that because we ey the letter of the law and disregard the ue spirit of the law, we cannot expect to ter the eternal home in Heaven.

The Story Applied—Now this story and lesson pplies just as much to the Pharisees of today s it did in the days in which Jesus walked pon earth. The Pharisee is in our midst to- ay only we do not call him by that name. He more readily known by the name of hypocrite self-righteous man.

In other words the admonition of Christ in ur text refers just as much to the man today who thinks that because he is a church mem- er, prays, gives to the various objects of the hurch and to charity) as it did to those to hom Christ was talking as recorded by St. atthew.

Nov. 10.—Poster: Pictures of trees, children sled- ng, sleighs, etc., cut from black paper, pasted on hite card—below print: "Though November days cold and drear, Put on your ulster and nothing ar; Come to Church and there you will hear tories which tell of hope and good cheer." Invita- on—Little evergreen trees cut from green card- ard; invitation written on back.

Have the children plan for a public meeting, when program of exercises, music, and so on can be iven, and the Senior League and congregation be vited.

NOVEMBER 17.

Who Were the People of Galilee?

By Francis C. Leupold.

We take our text for this topic from the wenty-third, twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth erses of the fourth chapter of St. Matthew.

The Story—The people of Galilee or the Gali- ans as they were called were a people among hom Christ seemed to love to be, for they eeded Him and He was ever ready to adminis- er to those who needed His help and who were illing to listen to His story of salvation.

Galilee (meaning a circle) was a very fertile ountry and the people were a loving, thrifty et. They were related to the Pharisees in heir religious views but differing from them in their political views. They were supposed to be founded by Judas. It was from this land that the wonderful St. Peter came and in this land it was that Christ Himself spent some of His childhood and again here later performed some of his most notable miracles and many times preached. Then again after His resurrection it was in Galilee that He met His followers.

The Main Lesson—Probably as we read the three verses of this lesson, the thing that must make its impress most upon us in the misery that exists and the willingness of Jesus to ameliorate that misery.

Here in our lesson we find the hosts of diseased people, many of them having the worst diseases known in that day, and yet they came to this Great Physician and He received them all irrespective of their social or moral standing and turned them away cured of diseases of the mind, body and soul. And then preached to them the word of the salvation of souls.

The Story Applied—If there is one thing more than another of our modern church life that corresponds with the story of our lesson, it is the Inner Mission activity of our churches. Here the needs of the soul, body and mind are taken care of and then the saving word preached. In this phase of our church we certainly have a happy combination of social service and soul service.

Practical Hints—For other references to them we can refer to Luke 13:1, John 7:41 and 52, Matthew 26:69, Mark 14:70, and Luke 22:59.

The Galileans were referred to by the Pharisees as being beneath them, and in a spirit of reproach referred to Christ as being a "Galilean."

It was their simplicity and humbleness that endeared them to the Master, and He always found true hospitality in their humble homes.

A lesson of importance that we can forcefully press upon the Junior is that the social station or amount of earthly wealth meant nothing to Jesus. He always has and always will look beneath the surface into the hearts of the believers and there find whether or not the service be from the lips or from the heart. Anyone can pretend sincerity from the head and hands (mere outward acts), but the true devotion and service come from the heart prompted by love and not by desire to "show" their religion.

Compare the lives of the Pharisees with those of the Galileans.

Poster—Large candle drawn on a card; below print: "This candle will light the way to the Junior Meeting, on ——, at — ——." Invitation—Small candle cut from cardboard; notice of meeting on back.

Have children prepare short stories on "The First Thanksgiving" to be read at next meeting.

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NOVEMBER 24.

Gift Giving.

By Laura Wade Rice.

Scripture Lesson—Luke 6:38.

General Truth—Jesus taught His friends how happy it is to give, not for what our freinds give back into our hands, but because their happiness and love will make our hearts rich.

Point of Contact—Every one loves to get gifts. Things that suited us one year we outgrow by the next. The pleasure we give others and the love they give us for our gifts never grow old. Christmas is coming. Let us plan our gifts not to get gifts in return, but to get the joy of making others happy.

Lesson Developed—Jesus wants us all to be His little Christians. He wants all Christians to be happy, the Bible calls it being *blessed.*

Once He preached a sermon telling a number of ways of getting to be happy or blessed. Most boys and girls know them by heart, they are called the Beatitudes; let us say them. One of these says the way to be a happy Christian is to give, it is happier even than to get, and we all know how happy we are when we get things. Jesus said, "It is more blessed, more happy, to give than to receive." Christians are not selfish, always wanting to get, get, get. Christians are like God, their Father, we love to give, give, give. God is always giving. Our lesson verse is about that kind of giving. It tells more, though. It says Christians are always getting back when they give unselfishly—oh, getting ever so much back. He said: "Give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down and shaken together and running over." But, because He does not want us to think He means us to give to get gifts in return, He said more. He did not say the good measure would come back into our hands, but into our hearts. Let us say the verse and see. Jesus wants us to have rich hearts, running over with the happiness we have given to others by the kind things we do, the sweet words we say to them and about them. Gifts are not all given by hand, a kiss, an unselfish act, a self-denial, a quick forgiveness, are all gifts and make our hearts rich by the joy they give others and the love and thanks we get in return. The poorest little Christian can grow rich giving such gifts.

Hints for Leaders—Lift this lesson above the mere giving of material things. But help them to plan material giving also. Get "White Gifts for the King" at any religious bookstore. Tell story to them and *let them plan* to have a White Christmas for the King.

Essays or Talks—What Mother Gives Baby, and What Baby Gives Mother.

What God Gives Us, and What We Can Give to God.

What Scholars Can "Pour Back" into the Hearts of Their Teachers.

What We Can Pour Back into Our Parents' Hearts for Their Gifts to Us.

Some Gifts that Have Come Back into Our Own Hearts from Our Giving to Missions.

Parallel Scripture—Proverbs 28:27, II Cor. 8:9 and 9:7, Luke 9:31-35.

Draw a large Christmas tree on white card, draw packages beneath it. Above in green letters put "Gift Giving"; and below, the time of meeting. Invitations—Small trees cut from green cardboard. On back print, "Learn About Giving Gifts to Others, at Junior League, on ——, at ——."

Make some plans for the children to bring gifts for others at Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

—*Service Flags*—Redeemer, Brooklyn, Rev. E. J. Flanders, 23; Osborne, Ohio, Rev. H. E. Crowell, 10; Three Rivers, Mich., Rev. D. P. Blair, 18; Trinity, Chicago, Rev. J. A. Leas.

WORK OF THE FRENCH PROTESTANT COMMITTEE

How the Protestant Churches in France work with the army and navy through a committee embracing all denominations is told in a recent letter.

"Our committee is working on very similar lines with your own," writes Andre Monod, corresponding secretary of the French Protestant committee, from Paris to Henry A. Atkinson, executive secretary of the national committee on the Churches and moral aims of the war. "Democracy and international justice," says Mr. Monod, "are the French committee's basic principles." Mr. Monod's letter, in part, follows:

"Our own committee was formed as early as June, 1915. Its first aim was to vindicate what was to us the right and the truth before the Protestants of neutral countries. The appointment of this committee, which united the most prominent representatives from all our Churches with men belonging to or having done fine service in the army, the navy, or in the business circles, had been fully approved by the 'Conseil de la Federation des Eglises Protestantes,' our Federal Council of Churches.

"The Protestant committee has been one of the most active of our organizations during the war. * * * It has extended its scope of action in a great number of different countries by means of literature and the sending of delegates to Holland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, the United States, and Canada.

"Early in 1917 the same committee found a way of taking its part in a wide and permanent campaign, tending to maintain the spirit of the nation on a lofty level and to give moral support to influential organizations which could help in said campaign. We thus brought to a national campaign the help and the work of our Churches which were especially prepared to understand the moral aims of the war.

"We have been the means by our close relations with the United States and by the mission of our delegates, to make our people more fully realize the moral significance and the value of American friendship and American support in the war."

SAVING OF FOODSTUFFS

Substantial saving of foodstuffs and feeding stuffs formerly used in making explosives for domestic purposes is indicated by replies received from manufacturers by the United States Bureau of Mines, which has been co-operating with the Food Administration by conducting an investigation of the problem.

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